

'He doesn't enjoy it but he's very good at undercover work'

Council pays private eye to have sex

By FRANK WALKER

A PRIVATE investigator was employed by a council to have sex at a suspected illegal brothel next door to a senior Liberal MP's office.

The investigator was paid \$1,078 by Ku-ring-gai Council, on Sydney's north shore, to find out if a massage parlour in Gordon was illegally offering sex for sale.

The parlour is next to the electorate office of Deputy Liberal Leader Barry O'Farrell and above a gourmet pizza shop.

The council approved a "body massage and relaxation centre" offering "Chinese therapeutic massage" at the site last year.

But it became suspicious after advertisements appeared for the massage parlour offering "Susan, very beautiful 18yo, sexy and busty body to body rub".

The council called in private eye company Lyonswood Investigations to handle the

case. An investigator visited the parlour and wrote a four-page report for the council detailing the undercover operation, during which he paid for and received oral sex.

The report detailed the sex and stated the Chinese worker was "Sheri, 18 years old, very attractive, excellent body".

The private eye said further visits would prove the parlour offered full sex — the worker had told him he should come back in a few days.

The private investigator's report concluded: "We believe our further investigation will provide evidence of a broad range of sexual services being offered, including sexual intercourse."

Lyonswood operations director Warren Mallard told *The Sun-Herald* it was a tough job but someone had to do it.

"I have an investigator who is single who does this work," he said. "He doesn't enjoy it but he is very good at undercover work. It is the only way to prove that these

places are offering sex."

Mr Mallard said he had investigated illegal brothels for at least 10 councils and dozens of owners of buildings who suspected their tenants were misusing their premises.

Ku-ring-gai Mayor David Dobbin said: "It would be above and beyond the call of duty for a council officer to investigate this type of matter and I would not ask any of them to do it."

The operators of the massage parlour were refused a council permit to become a legal brothel earlier this month as they were next door to a music school above Mr O'Farrell's office and within 150m of two churches.

"But they have appealed our decision to the court and, unfortunately, the history of this sort of appeal in the Land and Environment Court is they mostly win," Mr Dobbin said.

Councillor Tony Hall, who has campaigned against illegal brothels, said there were others in Pymble, Turramurra



Immigration raids brothel

IMMIGRATION officers have taken away an Asian man and woman from an illegal brothel next door to the electoral office of NSW Liberal Deputy Leader Barry

O'Farrell, in Gordon. *The Sun-Herald* revealed in July that Ku-ring-gai Council had paid a private investigator to have sex at the brothel to get evidence.

INVESTIGATION: Liberal MP Barry O'Farrell outside the massage parlour.
Picture: SIMON ALEKNA.

and Lindfield and a legal one in Roseville near a cinema.

"The council could stop these on health grounds alone but instead they are spending ratepayers' money for private investigators to have sex at these places," Mr Hall said.

Upstairs in the parlour

yesterday, a Chinese man who spoke little English said sex would have to be sorted out with the "girl", who was busy. This reporter departed.

The applicant for the brothel, Ms Ling Zhang, of Woolloomooloo, runs several similar premises in Sydney.