

**Submission
No 100**

INQUIRY INTO THE REGULATION OF BROTHELS

Name: [REDACTED]

Date Received: 19/08/2015

Partially Confidential

The Committee Manager
Select Committee on the Regulation of Brothels Parliament House, Macquarie St
Sydney NSW 2000

To whom it may concern,
19/08/2015

The decriminalisation of sex work is essential to recognising the human rights of sex workers in Australia. Sex work has been decriminalised in NSW since 1995 and NSW is world-renowned as having a best practice model.

Decriminalisation is recognised as the model that best promotes sex workers health, safety and human rights by The United Nations, The World Health Organisation, and Amnesty International.

As you are aware brothels in NSW were decriminalised, and the regulation of them handed over to local government on recommendation of the Wood Royal Commission that found "a clear nexus between police corruption and the operation of brothels". 20 years later we should not be going back to a situation where sex workers are at the mercy of corrupt police. Under decriminalisation sex services premises that do not have approval are still dealt with at a local government level, as any non-compliant business would be. Under legal licensing models (as evidenced in other states) a two tier system develops where some sex workers are criminalised and so lose access to the services that all sex workers should have, and are vulnerable to abuse. The sex industry is a legitimate industry, providing employment, and so should be regulated as any other industry is and the best way to achieve this is to retain decriminalisation.

Sex workers in NSW have a high rate of condom use, high rates of health checks, and low rates of stis (as evidenced in the Lash Repost conducted by the Kirby institute) and when compared with Vic and QLD decriminalisation was found to be the best legal framework for promoting sex worker health and safety.

As a brothel based sex worker in Australia I choose to work in NSW because decriminalisation provides the best working conditions, where I can access appropriate healthcare, where I can go to the police if a crime is committed against me at work, without having to worry about whether my workplace is legal or not. I do not want to lose the ability to work as safely as possible, and if decriminalisation is replaced with a legal licensing model I will be losing just that.

Yours Faithfully,

██████████

1, Donovan, B., Harcourt, C., Egger, S., Watchirs Smith, L., Schneider, K., Kaldor, J.M., Chen, M.Y., Fairley, C.K.,

Tabrizi, S., (2012). The Sex Industry in New South Wales: a Report to the NSW Ministry of Health. Sydney: Kirby Institute, University of New South Wales.

2 Christine Harcourt, J O'Connor, S Egger, C Fairly, H Wand, M Chen, L Marshall, J Kaldor, B Donovan, (2010), 'The Decriminalisation of Prostitution is Associated with Better Coverage of Health Promotion Programs for Sex Workers', Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health, 34:5 at 482.