

**Submission
No 54**

INQUIRY INTO THE REGULATION OF BROTHELS

Name: Ms Vanessa Stathopoulos

Date Received: 18/08/2015

Ms Vanessa Stathopoulos

General submission

To whom it may concern,

As a member of the community, I am writing to make a submission into the Inquiry into the Regulation Brothels. Since the decriminalisation of sex work in NSW in 1995, NSW is regarded internationally as having a best practice model. Decriminalisation in NSW has produced outcomes of:

- better access to health promotion (finding of the Law and Sex Worker Health Study, which compared the health impacts of legal frameworks across Victoria, NSW and WA)*
- better access to Occupational Health and Safety (WorkCover and SWOP worked with sex workers to create Health and Safety Guidelines for Brothels, which have been translated to Thai, Chinese and Korean)**

It is essential that safe working environments are provided for sex workers, with decriminalisation proving to be a successful regulatory model that has contributed to excellent health outcomes and improved occupational health and safety for sex workers. The model of decriminalisation in NSW has also led to an elimination of police corruption involving street-based sex workers.***

I strongly encourage the Committee to regard the significant positive outcomes the decriminalisation of sex work in NSW has produced for sex workers, sex industry clients and the broader community.

Yours Faithfully,

Vanessa Stathopoulos

* 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

**NSW Government and Workcover, 'Health and Safety Guidelines for Brothels', 2001, accessed at http://www.workcover.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0014/15134/brothels_health_safety_guidelines_English_0120.pdf on 12 August 2015

***2 C. Harcourt et al, "The Health and Welfare of Female and Transgender Street Sex Workers in New South Wales," Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health 25 (2001): 84-9.