

**Submission  
No 152**

## **INQUIRY INTO THE REGULATION OF BROTHELS**

**Name:**

████████████████████

**Date Received:**

19/08/2015

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Wednesday, 19 August 2015 11:53 PM

**To:** ROBInquiry

**Subject:** ROB (Regulation of Brothels) Parliamentary Inquiry - Submission

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: ROB Inquiry - Submission

I work in the field of sexuality counseling and therapy. I oppose any changes to existing NSW-legislation relating to Regulation of Brothels/Sex Workers, as

- Full decriminalization is the only way to ensure the health and safety of sex workers, clients and the community at large. Research by WHO, Amnesty International and various HIV/aids organizations supports this.
- NSW is world-renowned as having best business practice model. The outcomes in NSW have been:

\* Extremely low rates of STIs and HIV (recognized by Australia's National Strategies and the Kirby Institute Annual Surveillance Report).

\* Better access to health and promotion (finding of the Law and Sex worker Health Study, which compared health impacts of legal frameworks across Victoria, NSW and WA).

\* No evidence of organized crime (recognized by the Land and Environment court)

\* 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)

\* Current evidence based by the Lancet at AIDS 2014 found that the decriminalization of sex work would have the greatest impact on the HIV epidemic, reducing HIV by up to 46% in the next decade and resulting on cost saving thresholds of tens of millions of dollars globally.

Sex work stigma and bad laws based on that stigma force sex workers into harmful situations: to go underground, to be vulnerable to corrupt police and bad clients.

Stigma-based laws create fear of eviction, fines or jail time just for following normal business practices any other business would enjoy

Sex workers start to take risks and adopt less than ideal practices: ie. less compliance with health and safety standards, affecting sex workers AND clients AND their loved ones...

spilling out into the community.

Sex Workers need to work from a premises without being forced to work for someone else and without fear of eviction.

Sex workers are by and large community leaders when it comes to implementing STI health and safety procedures when they are not forced underground by councils and stigma based laws.

Councils actually need to approve safe places for sex-workers to work from.

**Evidence based research consistently concludes the current NSW system of decriminalization is the best in the world (along with New Zealand).**

The results are better health and safety for sex workers, clients and community members.

Please, if it ain't broke, don't fix it.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]