

**Submission
No 108**

INQUIRY INTO THE REGULATION OF BROTHELS

Name: Ms Julie Bates

Date Received: 19/08/2015

Ms Julie Bates

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General submission

For our health and safety's sake please save decriminalisation of the NSW sex industry and help improve the regulatory framework. A review is timely but not in terms of finding additional regulatory controls that adds red tape and further stigmatises, harms and discriminates against sex workers and our industry. It should focus on the benefits of decriminalisation which can only be wholly realised if local government, our new regulators, embrace the spirit and intent of the Disorderly Houses Amendment Act 1995.

In order for this to happen, councils and communities require information and education on the realities of the sex industry and better regulatory practices. It is only then that a regulatory response can meet the over-arching objectives of the reforms that were intended to improve public health outcomes including that of sex workers and to remove opportunities for corruption. Anything less is counter-productive to these aims.

In terms of land use, any regulatory response must treat both the commercial and home based sectors of the sex industry equal to other like land uses.

Above all, sex worker rights are human rights and decriminalisation has been identified by UN agencies, and more recently Amnesty International, in the necessary protection of these rights.

I would welcome the opportunity to expand upon this short submission and am more than willing to meet with the Select Committee.