

**Submission
No 69**

INQUIRY INTO THE REGULATION OF BROTHELS

Name:

████████████████████

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Partially Confidential

Submission in relation to the Regulations of Brothels

I am writing to the Committee to keep decriminalisation of Brothels in NSW.

I am a middle age woman who has recently started seeing a sex worker who has his own apartment where he sees his clients. To me seeing a sex worker was never about going to someone just for the sex. I can go to any large organisation of brothels but I feel more comfortable with a sex worker who works solely for himself.

The reason why I approached a sex worker was because I had been in several bad relationships and had been used. I felt worthless, lost my ability to feel in a relationship, my sexuality and to trust. I wanted to feel worthy again and to be able to feel intimacy. By going to the sex worker I see he has been able to give me all these pleasures again plus I feel safe in the environment that he conducts his business from. It is not just about the sex, it's about all of the above in how it helps many women have confidence in themselves again. Women who have disabilities who may never be in a relationship can know they can see a sex worker legally and be treated with respect. If clients regularly see the same sex worker a special bond and friendship can occur. It would also be no different to going to your local doctor, sex therapist etc and seeing them on a regular basis which is legal.

It's knowing that women can go to an establishment that is safe, protected and knowing that the sex work industry is legal. This way I know that I am not doing anything illegal and am protected from prosecution. I also know that sex workers regularly have medical check-ups and have a low rate of STIs. They want to protect themselves as well as their clients. At least this way having brothels makes me feel like I am not breaking my morals but if I went and picked up a person off the street this would break all of them and that person could be on drugs and transmit a disease.

If the regulations of brothels in NSW are changed and individual sex workers who do not work in a large establishment have to obtain a licence to do their work, I believe that many local Councils will not allow them to continue their occupation in residential areas. These areas are safe for me as a woman to attend. If I had to go to an industrial area out of the way to a sex worker's place of business in a sterile environment, I would not feel safe and this could cause more damage to the client who already feels vulnerable.

We live in an era where the stigma of prostitution say over 50 years ago what not a safe profession and was illegal. Times have changed as of today and I believe that sex work is an occupation in this country which is legal and the sex workers should be treated with respect if the proper regulations are observed. The sex worker should be able to have a say in their business just like other types of professions. It is the client's choice to see a sex worker knowing that it is legal and safe. Otherwise clients would probably not feel safe and having the threat of prosecution over them.

Please leave the sex workers alone who are legally obeying the laws of NSW and do not decriminalise brothels.