

**Submission
No 73**

INQUIRY INTO THE REGULATION OF BROTHELS

Name: [REDACTED]
Date Received: 18/08/2015

Partially Confidential

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
18/8/15

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

To whom it may concern,

As a sex worker, single parent, and academic, I am writing to make a submission to the Inquiry into the Regulation of Brothels. Sex workers are the key stakeholders in the process of evaluating the regulation of brothels in NSW.

I count myself lucky to work in NSW, where sex work is decriminalised. NSW currently has one of the best practice models of anywhere in the world, and as a result sex workers here are empowered, have an extremely low rate of STIs and HIV, workers are able to conduct their business under safer conditions (such as from their own homes or from rented workspaces), and our rights are protected by the law.

As a unionist and as someone who was raised to believe fiercely in workers' rights, I see the continuation of decriminalisation in NSW as essential to workers' rights. Legalisation of the industry would be a step backwards for the human rights of sex workers. This model forces workers to either register themselves or to work outside of the law, often in unsafe conditions.

I have personally worked in countries and states with different regulatory models to NSW, and due to the fact that I was either forced to work underground (where sex work was illegal), or forced to work outside of the law (due to my understandable reluctance to publicly register myself as a sex worker) I often felt unsafe in my work and unprotected by the law. Since moving to NSW I have never once felt this way. I know that I am allowed to conduct my business in the best manner that I see fit, choose to work from spaces where I feel safest, and if need be, I can call the police and rest assured that they will protect me as necessary. I trust that you will take these points into consideration during your inquiry.

Sincerely,
[REDACTED]