

**Submission  
No 44**

## INQUIRY INTO THE REGULATION OF BROTHELS

Name: ██████████  
Date Received: 18/08/2015

*Partially Confidential*

## Submission to the Select Committee on the Regulation of Brothels

**This submission is lodged as partially confidential: it may be published but all identifying details (including my name) is to be withheld. The submission may be referred to and cited in the final report, but no identifying information is to be disclosed.**

In response to the inquiry conducted by NSW Legislative Assembly Select Committee on the Regulation of Brothels, I would like to make a submission highlighting my concern in regards to the phrasing of point D *“The location of sex service premises including their proximity to homes, schools and playgrounds”*. I am concerned that the phrase **“location of sex service premise”** is inaccurate as aside from referring to brothels, it also incorporates independent sex workers, who in most cases, work from home or from a rented apartment, within “proximity to homes”. Understanding that sex work is

- A legitimate industry
- Sex workers are entitled to fair working conditions and a safe working environment,
- Customers should be able to engage their services in a safe and discrete environment.

I therefore fail to understand how further regulation to the location of “sex service premises” is benefiting either the providers, customers or the community in general, especially in the case of independent sex workers. An independent sex worker would see one or two clients a day, may be a couple of days a week, and provide a legitimate service behind the closed walls of their apartment. In fact the “sex service premise” in case of an independently working sex worker will be no different than anyone’s home, apartment, there is no impact or exposure to neighbours (noise, traffic or garbage) as the service takes place discretely indoors, within the walls of the apartment. This service is arguably less disruptive to its environment than that of a hairdresser or tattoo artist, physiotherapist working home, and is kept discreet given sex workers are not permitted to advertise their operations, whereas hairdressers, tattoo artists, physiotherapists are.

Whilst in general there is the agreement in the community that de-criminalization of the sex industry is beneficial both for providers and customers there is less understanding and appreciation for the various reasons someone would consider the use of this service. Some are for lust, some are for a physical or emotional connection otherwise not available to them (e.g.: breakdown of relationship, physical or mental disability etc.) and some are therapeutically. I have in fact, been the client of an

independently working male escort for women in NSW. I engaged this service to overcome vaginismus, a condition that prevented me from undergoing gynaecological check-ups and PAP smear tests for 15years. The fact that this independent sex worker was operating from an apartment located in a modern unit complex in a Sydney suburb served by public transport, significantly contributed to my feeling of safety, security and discretion. Had this independent escort been prevented from working from a location in “proximity to homes”, I would not have been able to learn the techniques necessary to manage my condition and subsequently receive diagnosis and treatment for abnormalities identified by a Pap smear in a timely manner.

Should the inquiry into the regulation of brothels extend its scope to the work of independent workers, as indicated by the current wording of point D cited above, I am concerned that many other customers would find it unsafe and therefore impossible to engage the service they need and allowed to obtain legally.

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