

INQUIRY INTO THE REGULATION OF BROTHELS

Name: [REDACTED]

Date Received: 19/08/2015

Partially Confidential

Submission to the Select Committee on the Regulation of Brothels

NAME:	
ADDRESS:	
DATE:	13/08/15
To:	The Committee Manager
Select Committee on the Regulation of Brothels Parliament House Macquarie St Sydney NSW 2000	

My background:

Health education worker working with sex workers and people who inject drugs. I have worked on the front line with many sex workers and sit on the Australian Federation of AIDS organisation board which represents all affected populations of HIV including sex workers.

My opinion on the current extent and nature of the brothel industry in New South Wales

NSW has the best system in Australia currently. I have worked in Victoria in crisis accommodation & have seen first hand the massive amount of street based sex work, police corruption, violence, sexual predation that comes with legislation such as what is being proposed for NSW. We should be working towards anti-discrimination laws that vilify sex workers and allow sex work to be seen as "illegitimate work".

Current regulation of brothels in New South Wales and other states

The current model is excellent. It keeps police corruption at bay. We must work on anti-discrimination of sex workers in NSW - enact anti-discrimination legislation.

Penalties and enforcement powers required to close illegal brothels

Penalties & enforcement powers are sufficient currently.

Options for reform including a scheme of registration or licensing system for authorised brothels

I do not support registration or licencing system for authorised bathels. This would create problematic situations for sex workers & force them underground.

The protection of sex workers, including issues around organised crime and sex trafficking

Protection should be offered via anti-discrimination legislation and not police or law enforcement initiatives.

Options to maintain the high level of public health outcomes

Research shows (as well as outcomes from the HIV crisis in the 1980s & 1990's) that sex workers must be front and centre in public health outcomes. Funding for peer based organisations and community development projects which empower sex workers is the best option.

Residential amenity and the location of sex services premises

Restriction of location is essentially discrimination or "Not in my back yard". It has been proven that sex work does not in any way "criminalise" an area or cause any negative social consequences. If anything it may bring income into an area and increase the standard of living of residents in the area. Enacting the proposed legislation would force sex workers onto the street causing violent crime, corruption and criminalisation.

SIGNATURE

