

**Submission
No 58**

INQUIRY INTO THE REGULATION OF BROTHELS

Name: Ms Lisa Lupa

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Lisa Lupa



16.08.2015

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

To whom it may concern,

I am a current sex worker with over 20 years experience working in brothels and private settings throughout Australia. I have also been employed as a Peer Education and Outreach Officer in states and territories where there is licensing of and criminalisation of brothels. I write this submission as an individual sex worker, though my opinions and observations have been influenced by my work providing outreach to sex workers who work in brothels.

I support the decriminalisation of sex work and am opposed to the licensing of brothels for the following reasons:

- The criminalisation of sex work is an abuse of our human rights
- Licensing models outside of NSW have proven to have a negative impact on sex workers rights, safety and access to services
- Countless studies have shown that decriminalisation is the most successful model for maintaining sex workers' low rates of HIV and STIs

Working in brothels in NSW in the past I have felt that I was in the position to exercise my rights and access justice if a crime was committed against myself. A licensing model that would result in some brothels being deemed illegal has serious negative implications.

Having worked in sex worker outreach in parts of Australia with different brothel legislation I am very aware of and concerned about the barriers some sex workers experience in accessing vital services including sexual health and legal services. Full decriminalisation of sex work is the only way to address this.

Yours sincerely,

Lisa Lupa

