INQUIRY INTO THE REGULATION OF BROTHELS

Name: Ms Xena Wrestles
Date Received: 14/08/2015
I support the continued decriminalisation of the Sex Industry in NSW and an Evidence-Based Approach that Reflects Best Practice.

Evidence-based sex industry planning:

- Enables the rights of sex workers such as myself to safely engage in their work in a range of scales and types of sex industry premises and;
- Enables the rights of people with disability, including the right to gain access, in a safe and dignified manner befitting the individual’s level of ability, to the range of various scales and types of sex industry premises that occur within any given Local Government Area of NSW, without experiencing discrimination or systemic barriers.

Regards
Xena
To whom it may concern,

As a sex worker, 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.

The decriminalisation of sex work is essential to recognising the human rights of sex workers in Australia. Sex work has been decriminalised in NSW since 1995 and NSW is world-renowned as having a best practice model. The outcomes of decriminalisation in NSW have been:

- Extremely low rates of STIs and HIV (recognised by Australia’s National Strategies and the Kirby Institute Annual Surveillance Report);[1]
- Better access to health promotion (finding of the Law and Sex Worker Health Study, which compared the health impacts of legal frameworks across Victoria, NSW and WA);[2]
- No evidence of organised crime (recognised by the Land and Environment Court);[3]
- Better access to Occupational Health and Safety (WorkCover and SWOP worked with sex workers to create Health and Safety Guidelines for Brothels, which have been translated to Thai, Chinese and Korean);[4]
- Current evidence presented by the Lancet at AIDS 2014 found the decriminalisation of sex work would have the greatest impact on the HIV epidemic, reducing HIV by up to 46% in the next decade and resulting on cost saving thresholds of tens of millions of dollars globally.[5]

I choose to work in a state where sex work is decriminalised because it means that if a client forces himself on me in ways that we have not agreed to then it is a crime I can report. This ultimately makes my workplace safer as clients are accountable for their actions.

Yours Faithfully,

Xena
(I am using my working name to protect my privacy)

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1 Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing, Sixth National HIV Strategy 2010-2013, Commonwealth of Australia, Canberra, 2010. 16. Kirby Institute, HIV, Viral Hepatitis and Sexually Transmissible Infections in Australia Annual Surveillance Report, University of New South Wales, 2011, p8, Figure 46, Figure 34.