

INQUIRY INTO THE REGULATION OF BROTHELS

Organisation: New Zealand Prostitutes Collective
Name: Ms Catherine Healy
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New Zealand Prostitutes Collective

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

19 August 2015

Dear Committee members

Re: Inquiry into the Regulation of Brothels

As an organisation of sex workers, the New Zealand Prostitutes' Collective seeks to make a submission on the above Inquiry.

The New Zealand Prostitutes' Collective (NZPC) is a national organisation established by sex workers and supporters in 1987, and funded by the Ministry of Health since 1988.

NZPC currently operates peer led education and information services, and also advocates for the rights, health, and well-being of all sex workers. This includes providing information to local and central government authorities to support a legislative framework that upholds the occupational safety and health, as well as the rights, of sex workers.

We are interested in the topics that have been proposed for consideration as outlined in the terms of reference.

NZPC has an interest in any controls that impact on the sex industry both in New Zealand and Australia. We have long regarded the existing model in New South Wales as one to be emulated. We recognise that there are similarities between the New Zealand model and that in NSW that mitigate against creating harms. Any laws and policies can enhance, or provide a major impediment to, the occupational health and safety of sex workers.

We are strongly opposed to the specific registration of individual sex workers as this can cause stigma. Many sex workers circumvent registration schemes to avoid official documentation of their

National Office
Wellington
PO Box 11 412
Manners St
Wellington
Ph: [04] 382 8791
pcdp@globe.net.nz

Auckland
PO Box 68 509
Newton
Auckland
Ph: [09] 366 6106

Tauranga
PO Box 9001
Greerton
Tauranga
Ph: [07] 571 0640

Taranaki
PO Box 4287
New Plymouth
Ph: [06] 758 6228

Christchurch
PO Box 13561
Christchurch
Ph: [03] 365 2595

Dunedin
PO Box 5636
Dunedin
Ph: [03] 477 6988

nzpc.org.nz

sex work, and this puts them at serious disadvantage to seek support if something goes wrong. New Zealand does not have a registration scheme for individual sex workers, including those who are managing their own sex work and working from home based businesses.

We also believe that it is unnecessary to license individual brothels, large and small. The Prostitution Reform Act 2003 that allows sex work in New Zealand, including the operation of brothels with no limitation on size or numbers, does not include licensing of individual brothels. One council, Auckland Council, has a licensing scheme, but it is our understanding that after the expiry of that bylaw, they will allow this additional tier of licensing to drop. Its purpose may have been to establish liability, but there are a number of other means by which this can be established. Interestingly, the rest of the country does not have a licensing tier, and does not see a need for it.

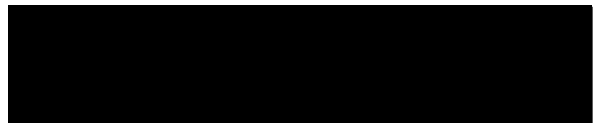
We urge the Committee to **not** consider the registration of individual sex workers or the licensing of individual brothels, to allow as many options as possible for all sex workers, which are consistent with international best practice models.

Please do not hesitate to seek further information.

Yours sincerely



Catherine Healy
National Co-ordinator
New Zealand Prostitutes Collective



Dr Calum Bennachie
Programme and Operations Co-ordinator
New Zealand Prostitutes Collective