

**Submission
No 20**

INQUIRY INTO THE REGULATION OF BROTHELS

Name: Mr Mark Stewart

Date Received: 14/08/2015

Mr Mark Stewart

General submission

I am writing to oppose the decriminalisation of prostitution in NSW. I have friends in the industry in Victoria and NSW, and I have seen firsthand the negative effects to their mental and physical wellbeing that the Victorian laws. The laws as they stand in NSW allow them to operate safely and protect them from predation by potential clients, and possible exploitation by criminal elements. My own observations are supported by the research of amnesty international.

"Research has consistently shown that the greatest harms experienced by sex workers occur through, and because of, criminalisation. Criminalising sex work makes sex workers more vulnerable to exploitation and abuse. It also makes it difficult for them to leave the industry, if they so wish."

If the aim of the government is "the protection of residential amenity; protection of sex workers and safeguarding public health", then I believe that research shows that the current laws in NSW have the best record for achieving this.

Regards

Mark Stewart