

**Submission  
No 87**

## INQUIRY INTO THE REGULATION OF BROTHELS

Name: [REDACTED]  
Date Received: 19/08/2015

*Partially Confidential*

[REDACTED]

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Dear Committee Manager,

I am writing this submission as a Victorian sex worker to urge you NOT to adopt the regulatory and licensing framework that is implemented here in Victoria. NSW is currently world-renowned for having the best practice model of decriminalisation due to the benefits for both sex workers and the broader community. In Victoria sex workers are trying to push for the same model you already have, therefore it would be regressive for you to change the current model. Without full decriminalisation workers like myself face massive discrimination in a number of areas, particularly when accessing health care providers. Only decriminalisation allows for our human rights to be respected and recognised.

Sex workers in Victoria often find it hard to comply with the licensing and regulations imposed as to do so opens us up to further discrimination through police practices. We are highly stigmatised as is, but when police harassment is allowed there are major negative impacts on our sense of safety. Victorian sex workers do not feel safe in making complaints to police, therefore leading to criminal charges not being laid and negative flow on effects to the broader community. There is no sense of our occupational health and safety being an issue when focus is on compliance with licensing, which are often difficult and expensive to comply with.

Decriminalisation is proven to enable extremely low STI and HIV rates within the sex industry which is why both the Lancet at AIDS 2015 and Amnesty International this month both promote it as the best framework. Please continue to uphold the human rights of sex workers and realise that licensing frameworks negatively impact not only the workers in the sex industry but the broader community as well.

Yours Sincerely

[REDACTED]