

**Submission  
No 43**

## **INQUIRY INTO THE REGULATION OF BROTHELS**

**Name:** Ms [REDACTED]

**Date Received:** 18/08/2015

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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

To whom it may concern

I am writing to make a submission to the inquiry into the regulation of Brothels. As a Sexologist who promotes the sexual rights of people living with disability and supports sex work organisations such as Touching Base, I feel the need to advocate for laws that protect the autonomy of sex workers.

Currently NSW is the only state that has decriminalised sex work since 1995 and is world renowned for having the best practice model. I would like to point out the following facts:

- Decriminalization of sex work has been shown to lead to better public health outcomes as health promotion and outreach programs can be properly resourced without stigmatization. Whilst there are criminal laws in place it is almost impossible to provide basic health and safety services for sex workers.
- Research indicates that criminal laws against sex workers limit their abilities to regulate safer industry practices and therefore compound health related risks. Legal barriers encourage poor workplace safety, violence, inadequate STI screening, blackmail and extortion.
- Decriminalization leads to a transparent work force, which is the first step in creating a supportive environment for preserving the human rights' and improving health and safety of sex workers. Sex work can become like every other profession in that it follows that occupational health and safety standards, workers' and customers' rights, complaints procedures, and financial regulation.

Yours sincerely

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