

**Submission
No 65**

INQUIRY INTO THE REGULATION OF BROTHELS

Name: [REDACTED]
Date Received: 18/08/2015

Partially Confidential

[REDACTED]

Partially Confidential

I write this submission to the Inquiry into Brothels in New South Wales.

I make reference to the second-listed Terms of Inquiry and remind the Committee, the members of which are no doubt up-to-date on the latest evidence-based research, of the following which is demonstrated by research:

Decriminalisation of the sex work industry in New South Wales has improved the coverage of health promotion programs for sex workers, eliminated police corruption involving street-based sex workers, enables sex workers to more easily move into alternate forms of employment due to a lack of a criminal record, and provides a safe working environment for sex workers.

The decriminalisation model of sex work in New South Wales has been proven to be the most robust method of improving the health and safety of sex workers and reducing secondary criminal activity surrounding the industry. The decriminalisation model is advocated by UNAIDS, UN and WHO as a best practice.

Decriminalising sex work does not limit the powers of the state to address other concerns such as human trafficking, council powers to close non-compliant commercial businesses, or elements of organised crime as existing legislation and regulatory powers in place are able to address these issues.

I make reference to the third-listed Terms of the Inquiry and remind the Committee members: Licencing models are costly and inefficient for the state. As demonstrated in Queensland and Victoria, licencing models require such high levels of resources to operate - money which is much better spent on health care and health promotion.

After thirteen years of the decriminalisation model being in operation in NSW only one brothel owner has been ordered to cease operations due to amenities concerns, and so the matter is mute.

Put simply, moving away from the decriminalisation model of regulation and toward a licensing model would cost the state and be inefficient if not entirely ineffective at achieving any valuable goals. It is a much greater decision for NSW to act in the interest of the community by maintaining a decriminalised model of sex work regulation. It is the role of law and of government to act in the community's best interest and I therefore recommend you maintain regulation based on facts: decriminalisation works.

Sincerely,
[REDACTED]