Criminal Code (Decriminalising Sex Work) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

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From:

To: Housing, Big Build and Manufacturing Committee

Subject: Submission in support of: Criminal Code (Decriminalising Sex Work) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill

2024

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3/03/2024

Committee Secretary
Housing, Big Build and Manufacturing Committee
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Please accept this submission in support of the Criminal Code (Decriminalising Sex Work) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024. I congratulate the Miles Government for acting on this important reform. This Bill finds the right balance to protect the health, safety and rights of sex workers, and the rights of the broader community.

The Decriminalising Sex Work Bill will end the treatment of sex work as a criminal activity. Instead, sex work would be treated as work and sex workers will be able to work together. A decriminalised framework is established in line with the recommendations of the independent Queensland Law Reform Commission (QLRC) eighteen month review.

The Bill will:

- repeal sex work specific criminal offences such as those relating to working alone or with others, in the Criminal Code, Prostitution Act 1999 and Prostitution Regulation 2014;
- result in sex work being regulated using existing systems, regulations and laws:
- repeal sex work specific criminal offences that are located in the Prostitution Act and Prostitution Regulation;
- implement the QLRC's recommendation to update discrimination protections in the Anti-Discrimination Act 1991 (AD Act); and
- introduce a legislated review requirement to assess the implementation of decriminalisation of sex work in Queensland.

General criminal laws that apply to everyone will still apply to the sex industry. The QLRC recommendations also set out that Sex Work Workplace Health & Safety (WHS) guidelines would be developed, including provision and use of condoms.

This reform will bring Queensland into line with other jurisdictions that have already decriminalised sex work. There should be no delay in commencement by 1 July, 2024.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Yours sincerely



I request that my name and contact details be withheld.