

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

Submission No: 33
Submitted by: [REDACTED]
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Submitter Comments:

I have been a private, independent sex worker in Queensland under heavy regulation for about 11 years and previously about 4 years in New Zealand, under full decriminalisation. My working conditions were difficult to manage under Queensland law, and often had to choose to break existing laws just to keep me safe. I support the Criminal Code (Decriminalising Sex Work) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024, as an essential legislative reform for sex worker health, safety and rights which supports basic human rights protections for everyone and to align with other jurisdictions that have modernised their sex work laws to make my profession safe and improve my health and well-being, remove all discrimination practices and remove/repeal police involvement (especially 2012's horrendous entrapment laws). The current regulatory system directly harms all sex workers and has ultimately failed. PART 1: I further recommend that this overhaul commences on the 1st of July 2024 to avoid further unnecessary criminal charges against sex workers trying to keep themselves safe. Sex workers need to be able to access the justice system without fear of further discrimination and other charges. PART 2: I support amendments to the Anti-Discrimination Act but recommend the removal of 'adult' from cl6. PART 3 & 7: I support laws that prevent council's banning sex work from their area's. I recommend sex workers be allowed to work in pairs, small groups and collectives privately, as they see fit. I worked from home as well as from hotels, motels and other types of accommodation and I often worked in pairs for safety and my mental health and/or let my husband know where I was, and when I was due back home. I did so discreetly and without incident, however the way sex workers have been portrayed in the media and in general, has meant that we are often targeted and discriminated against unfairly, across the board. PART 4: I fully support the repeal of Ch22A Criminal Code, especially the laws that criminalise sex worker safety. PART 6: I support the amendment to the Liquor Act but I think a review of the Adult Entertainment laws and a further removal of any regulatory role from Police is necessary. PART 9: I support a review of the Act in 4-5 years in consultation with sex worker organisations. We are the only ones that understand our needs and how best to address problem areas. PART 10: I support the repeal of the Prostitution Act including the licensing system, licensing authority, public health and advertising laws). They have not protected me. PART 11: I support this part but 'social escort' needs to be removed from the Child Employment Act, as it has been from other Acts. Finally, many sex workers have had their lives impacted by unfair charges under current sex work policing, regulation, entrapment laws and other legislation. Their charges need to be expunged and understood in all future legislation to prevent ongoing injustices. Respect Inc was my sex worker support organisation in Queensland. They are heavily under resourced to adequately meet the needs of all sex workers. I would like to see Respect adequately resourced to provide an awareness program to address sex work stigma and inform sex workers about decriminalisation in line with QLRC Recommendation 38. Thankyou for hearing my submission and I look forward to the outcome. Kind regards [REDACTED]