

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

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Committee Secretary
Housing, Big Build and Manufacturing Committee
Parliament House
Brisbane Qld 4000

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit to this process.

As a Queensland sex worker I am excited to see the government taking this step to ensure the safety of sex workers in Queensland. I support the Criminal Code (Decriminalising Sex Work) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024.

Decriminalisation is important to me because sex workers perform a legal business activity; we pay taxes and contribute to our communities. We should be able to have the same workplace rights as others.

This Bill will allow me to use safety strategies such as calling another sex worker when I arrive or leave a booking, being able to work with other sex workers & hiring a driver that another sex worker uses and has recommended.

Access to justice will be improved and sex workers will be able to report crimes to police without fear of discrimination or being charged themselves for implementing their own safety strategies. I, like many other sex workers, absolutely do not feel safe to report under our current legalisation model and applaud the Bill for recognising the inequitable situations sex workers face in these areas. The next area to be reformed should include removal of police from an enforcement role in adult entertainment venues, so no sex worker is left behind.

Stigma and discrimination are faced daily by sex workers in all aspects of our lives, this Bill including new discrimination protections and the repeal of lawful discrimination is the first step in reducing the stigma and discrimination we face. Many aspects of the licensing system, removed by this Bill, reinforce stigma.

Workplace health and safety measures are extremely important to us, our body is our business. Sex workers have extremely high rates of PPE usage and are very well educated in sexual health and STI's/BBV's. Business owners will still need to provide PPE to anyone working at their establishment and peer education around these issues will continue.

The bill should not be delayed any longer. Each day these changes do not occur we are out here stuck within a system that only further causes us harm by forcing so many of us to work without our safety strategies, forcing us to stay isolated and work alone affecting our mental health and wellbeing. We have lost too many sex workers to stigma and discrimination.

I am happy for this to be published on the Committee website.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Yours Sincerely,

[Redacted]

[Redacted]