

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

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Committee Secretary
Housing, Big Build and Manufacturing Committee
QLD Parliament House
HBBMC@parliament.qld.gov.au

Re: *The Criminal Code (Decriminalising Sex Work) and Other Legislation Amendment*

The Inner City Legal Centre (ICLC) wholeheartedly supports the swift passage of the *Sex Work Decriminalisation Bill* through QLD Parliament. The Bill represents a crucial legislative reform that will modernise Queensland's outdated regulatory framework surrounding the sex work industry. We know from our experience in NSW that the reforms will vastly improve the safety, health, and rights of sex workers in Queensland.

The ICLC has a special interest in promoting reform that better protects and recognises the rights of Sex Workers. Since 2011 the ICLC has provided one of only two Sex Worker Legal Services in all of Australia and, since the decriminalisation of sex work in NSW in 1995, the ICLC has strived to promote further legal protection for sex workers.

Accordingly, this Bill has the full support of the ICLC as a first step towards reforming Queensland's existing regime by removing offences that criminalise sex workers and the development of appropriate Work Health and Safety Guidelines. These measures will facilitate the shifting of sex work from being regarded primarily as a criminal issue to being recognised as legitimate work.

The ICLC strongly recommends a commencement date of 1 July 2024. Further delay in passing the Bill would unfairly expose sex workers to continued discrimination and outdated stereotypes associated with sex work in Queensland.

Additionally, the ICLC endorses the establishment of a community legal service for sex workers in Queensland. We know from our own experience that this would fill a critical gap in the community legal service provision and ensure Queensland sex workers have access to specialised legal advice to help them navigate these legal changes.

The ICLC consents to the full publication of this submission. My email is [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Katie Green
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INNER CITY LEGAL CENTRE

We acknowledge the Gad ga people of the Eora nation, the traditional custodians of the land on which we work.

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