

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

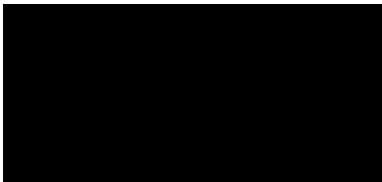
**Submission No:** 77

**Submitted by:** [REDACTED]

**Publication:** Making the submission public but withholding your name

**Attachments:**

**Submitter Comments:**



Committee Secretary  
Housing, Big Build and Manufacturing Committee  
Parliament House  
George Street  
Brisbane QLD 4000

By email: [HBBMC@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:HBBMC@parliament.qld.gov.au)

Dear Committee Secretary

I am writing in support of the Criminal Code (Decriminalising Sex Work) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024.

I am a sex worker born in Aotearoa New Zealand and now resident in Naarm/Melbourne in so-called Australia. Since 2010, I have worked part-time as a sex worker while completing a university degree, and professional registration, alongside other employment in the trade union and not for profit sectors. I have worked in brothels, escort agencies and massage parlours, for independent pornography producers, in content creation and as an independent full service sex worker.

I have lived experience of working within a licensing framework in Victoria before sex work was decriminalised in 2022. As both Aotearoa and Victoria have now **decriminalised sex work**, I have direct experience of the positive impacts of sex work decriminalisation, which has enabled my access to human rights, industrial protections and workplace health and safety. I urge the Committee to recommend this legislation in order that my Queensland colleagues will also be able to access these benefits.

### Commencement date (cl 2)

In line with the recommendation from sex worker organisations, the commencement date of the Bill must be 1 July 2024. Workplace health and safety and anti-discrimination protections are **urgently** required by Queensland sex workers, and this legislation must be implemented prior to the state election. In Victoria, sex work decriminalisation took place in two phases, which was confusing and disruptive for sex workers and peer educators, and did not appear to provide any benefit to the government agencies responsible for implementation. Enacting and implementing all the amendments at the same time, and as soon as practicable, would make life easier for the government agencies involved and for sex workers who are experiencing all the changes first hand.

### Amendment of the *Anti-Discrimination Act 1991* (pt 2)

I support the Bill's proposed amendments to the *Anti-Discrimination Act 1991*. During my sex work career, I have experienced frequent stigma and discrimination in areas such as accommodation, access to financial products and services and education.

While decriminalisation is not a magical fix to solve all societal stigma towards sex workers, anti-discrimination protections are a useful tool for responding to incidents of discrimination and also send a clear message to the community that discrimination is unacceptable. The proposed attribute of 'sex work activity' is clear and comprehensive, and should be retained within the Bill.

### Amendment of the Criminal Code (pt 4)

I support the Bill's proposed amendments to the Criminal Code, particularly the repeal of the sex work offences in Chapter 22A. The threat of criminal offences drives sex workers to work secretly and in isolation, meaning that sex workers must choose between working safely and viably *or* within the confines of an impossible framework.

The broad police powers of surveillance and entrapment in Queensland are notorious among sex workers throughout Australia, and have created a climate of significant fear and mistrust between sex workers and law enforcement. This has created barriers to sex workers reporting crimes they may have experienced, regardless of whether the offending was linked to sex work. In addition to this legislation, Queensland Police will require training to ensure that they understand their responsibilities under decriminalisation, and to respond appropriately when sex workers report criminal offending.

### Amendment of the *City of Brisbane Act 2010* (pt 3) and *Local Government Act 2009* (pt 7)

I support the Bill's proposed amendments to the *City of Brisbane Act 2010* and the *Local Government Act 2009*. Since the decriminalisation of sex work in Victoria, I have been able to work from my private residence, and occasionally from short-stay accommodation. This allows me flexibility over the hours I work, safety, privacy and autonomy. I am able to implement safety strategies such as having a friend wait in another room when I am seeing clients, or utilising a buddy check-in system. I am also able to share accommodation costs with another sex worker, which also functions as a safety strategy.

The planning framework for sex work must also permit sex workers to work in small groups from residential premises for safety and security.

### Repeal of the *Prostitution Act 1999* (cl 35)

I support the Bill's repeal of the *Prostitution Act 1999*, which permits an extremely narrow sector of sex work (incall full-service sex work within one of Queensland's 17 licensed brothels, or independent sex work in limited circumstances). This system significantly hinders the choice and

autonomy of sex workers, as it limits who we can work for, when, where and how we can work, who we can rely on to look out for our safety, the kind of services we can offer and the ways in which we can advertise and discuss those services. No other industry in Queensland, or indeed in Australia, is limited to this extent, to the detriment of the health, wellbeing, safety and industrial rights of its workers.

Queensland's licensing system has been an expensive failure, and sex workers deserve access to the same rights and responsibilities as all other workers and businesses in Queensland.

I give permission for the Committee to publish or refer to my submission in full or in part, but would ask that my full-name, address, email and phone number are not made public.

Yours sincerely

