

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

**Submission No:** 86  
**Submitted by:** [REDACTED]  
**Publication:** Making the submission public but withholding your name  
**Attachments:** No attachment

### Submitter Comments:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit to this process. The decriminalisation of sex work is essential to ensure the health, safety and rights of sex workers, and I support this Decriminalisation Bill. I am a sex worker and decriminalisation is important to me because in jurisdictions where sex work is decriminalised we have better access to workplace rights and protections. This fosters an environment where sex workers can advocate for our own health and safety without fear of repercussions. By removing the stigma and legal barriers associated with sex work, sex workers are more able to access housing, healthcare, counseling, and legal aid. This facilitates the development of a supportive ecosystem that prioritises the well-being and empowerment of sex workers, rather than marginalising us further. Anti-discrimination protections are also essential in ensuring the dignity and rights of sex workers. Decriminalisation allows for the implementation of robust anti-discrimination laws that safeguard individuals from prejudice and bias based on sex work. This is particularly crucial for sex workers who face intersecting forms of discrimination in both our personal and professional lives. By affording sex workers anti-discrimination protections, we can foster a more inclusive and equitable society where all individuals are treated with respect and fairness. Furthermore, decriminalisation is essential for the establishment of comprehensive work, health and safety, and industrial rights and protections for sex workers. Under a licensing model, we are subjected to onerous regulations and bureaucratic hurdles that serve to undermine our autonomy and agency. In contrast, decriminalisation empowers sex workers to organise and advocate for our rights collectively, free from the constraints imposed by punitive laws and regulations. This not only enhances our working conditions but also contributes to broader efforts aimed at dismantling systems of oppression and exploitation. As someone who has worked under decriminalisation and licensing models I am steadfast in my belief that decriminalisation is the most effective approach towards ensuring the rights and protections of sex workers. Thank you for considering my perspective on this important issue. Regards, [REDACTED]