

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

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Sacha Faddoul

Thank you for allowing the opportunity to submit submissions from Sex Workers in the industry such as myself.

I am in clear support of the Decriminalisation Bill.

As a full-time homosexual male Sex Worker, I am very familiar with my job as a Sex Worker and acutely aware of how my profession and the way I work is negatively affected by the criminalisation of Sex Work.

Homosexuality wasn't repealed in Queensland until 1991, being a homosexual sex worker has made me completely isolated from the police and completely fearful to report a crime, share information or access any QPS.

I support decriminalisation of Sex Work as it would tear down the barrier that would help in being protected by a service that is meant to protect, instead of prosecute me.

My safety strategies are criminalised by the current legislation, as being unable to maintain contact with another sex worker during a booking completely negates protection. Letting someone know where I am when I meet someone with the intention to have sex is an extremely common practice for everyone's safety, but becomes illegal once money enters the equation.

This is even more important for a homosexual sex worker, because historically homosexuals have been lured and bashed, violated or worse. This fear is always in the back of my mind with my job, and when my choices are to work within the legislation or work within my own safety.

I will always choose safety.

I support Decriminalisation as it will allow me to do both.

Being a male sex worker, as well as being a gay male sex worker comes with a large amount of stigma.

I am already having to seek out welcomed spaces that accept me for being a homosexual, being a sex worker adds another level of stigma even within my own community.

Activism does great work in decreasing this stigma in media and certain communities, but without decriminalisation I will always be at risk of facing stigma from health services, police services and personal services.

I can't disclose my job to my GP unless I trust they will not disclose that information onto others, or refuse their service to me or even treat me differently due to my job.

I had to seek out a GP that is both gay friendly and sex worker friendly and this was not easy.

I support Decriminalisation as it will mean the law is on my side, and not encourage services to treat me harshly due to stigma.

Being a sex worker, I have the highest interest in keeping my sexual health and education in check. I have had to use testing services that are peer-led as they are my only option to anything close to anonymous. I support there being more anonymous testing services, and I

feel this would decrease STI spread dramatically.

I use them very often, mostly for information and to be safe.

This is the same as an athlete getting a sports massage, or a model putting on skincare. It's just part of the job. Yet I am still expected as a sex worker to have STI's, this is a complete myth. No legislation has enticed me to seek sexual health testing, rather I am motivated by my own interest in my own health and to keep myself working. I support decriminalisation and I will continue to do sexual health testing of my own accord.

I work in city areas, this is good for both me and the clientele as it allows us to use public transport, have supplies at close reach and also allows me as a worker to be in closer contact with my local community.

Having sex workers be in reach of each other, and able to work in the same area creates business and allows clients to overcome their own stigma by being able to access private sex workers' locations.

Homosexual sex workers and clients may keep their sessions to themselves, as not every worker or client may be proudly out as a homosexual.

Allowing council to ban certain areas is harmful to these positives as it will not decrease the use of sexual activity between these clients, but instead this clientele will pursue unsafe sexual encounters that may risk their identity.

I support laws to prevent council from banning sex work from certain area's, and I believe sex workers should be able to work in small groups without council permission.

I am happy for my submission to be published on the committee website.

Thank you for reading my submission.

Yours sincerely, Sacha Faddoul.