

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

**Submission No:** 90  
**Submitted by:** Olivia Hollingdrake  
**Publication:** Making the submission and your name public  
**Attachments:** No attachment

### **Submitter Comments:**

I support the decriminalisation of sex work in Queensland because current evidence supports that this is a necessary step to promote safety for sex workers. Queensland is lagging behind other jurisdictions in this regard, at the detriment of safety for women, men and transgender people. It is imperative that this area of the law be based on what is best for sex workers rather than the wishes of people who have no experience of what it is like to have your profession criminalised. If we care about women's rights, health and empowerment, then we need to make this change. Research shows that criminalisation of sex work contributes to stigmatisation of sex workers, which has resulted in significant harms to women, driven by their reluctance to report crime, unwillingness to access health services and inability to surround themselves with supportive structures and networks to keep them safe at work. Police must be enabled to help sex workers deal with crimes like sexual assault, rather than allowing perpetrators to go unpunished because they must focus is on the work itself, not the actual crimes.