

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

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*Committee Secretary
Housing, Big Build and Manufacturing Committee
Parliament House
Brisbane Qld 4000*

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit to this process. I support the Decriminalisation of Sex Work in Queensland, with the Criminal Code (Decriminalising Sex Work) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024.

I'm a sex worker and have worked in all states & territories of Australia, including Queensland. Working in Queensland, however, has proven to be incredibly stressful and potentially unsafe for me, due to the current laws which ultimately criminalise my safety. It is quite common in the sex industry to work alongside a trusted peer to both reduce overheads, provide support to one another, and also so that you are not alone with a client. Another common strategy is to let a peer know our current location, and to check in with them to let them know when the client has arrived and left. In Queensland it is currently illegal for me to employ these very basic and common safety strategies. It is legal for me to send my girlfriend a message to say where I am on a Tinder date, but not legal if I am being paid for that date. Why do I have less access to safety when I'm at work?

It's really important for me from a consent perspective that I am able to describe exactly what services I offer, and what services I don't. It is unacceptable that I am expected to wait until I am alone in a room with a client to explain to them what my sexual boundaries are. This is the advertising guidelines from the licensing law putting me in a vulnerable situation where I am at a heightened risk of violence because I have not had the opportunity to manage the client's expectations in advance. If I were to be a victim of violence in Queensland, I would not feel comfortable reporting it to the police, given I would likely have to admit to illegal activities in order to do so. As the enforcers of sex work laws, the police are not an appropriate place for me to access justice.

Like many people who run their own business, I have hired people to assist with the administrative aspects so that I am able to focus on the service delivery. This is currently illegal in Queensland, which means that I am unable to operate my business at its full capacity when working in the state. I need Queensland to decriminalise sex work so that I am able to run my business to its full potential, and no longer have to choose between working legally or working safely.

I am happy for this to be publicised on the Committee website.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Yours sincerely,

Jenna Love