

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

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Submission to the Housing, Big Build and Manufacturing Committee Regarding the Criminal Code (Decriminalising Sex Work) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

**To: Committee Secretary
Housing, Big Build and Manufacturing Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane Qld 4000**

Email: HBBMC@parliament.qld.gov.au

Subject: Submission in Support of the Criminal Code (Decriminalising Sex Work) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

Dear Committee Members,

As a sex worker and the coordinator for Scarlet Alliance in lutruwita/Tasmania, my work largely exists at the intersection of marginalised communities, such as sex workers like myself, and mainstream service providers and government agencies. Though made personally, this submission is informed by my extensive experience within these intersecting spaces. Also, many of us tour our services in Queensland and are, therefore, directly affected by its laws governing sex work. This is why the Criminal Code (Decriminalising Sex Work) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024 holds significant importance to me. It promises not just legal reform but an essential shift towards recognising and safeguarding our rights and safety.

The objective of the Bill to establish a safe, decriminalised sex work industry in Queensland is crucial for improving the health, safety, rights, and legal protections for sex workers. This reform is not only about changing the legal framework around sex work; it's about acknowledging and respecting sex work as legitimate work, deserving of the same protections and rights as any other profession.

Key Points of Support and Recommendations:

- 1. Repeal of Criminal and Prostitution Acts:** The repeal of sex work-specific offences and the licensing system is a monumental step towards decriminalisation. It rectifies a system that has long failed to protect sex workers.
- 2. Commencement Date:** I recommend a commencement date of 1 July 2024 for the Act. Delays in implementation mean continued criminalisation and unnecessary hardship for sex workers. A clear commencement date ensures a swift transition towards a safer and more equitable working environment.
- 3. Amendment of the Anti-Discrimination Act 1991:** The proposed amendments are a positive step toward reducing stigma and discrimination. However, I

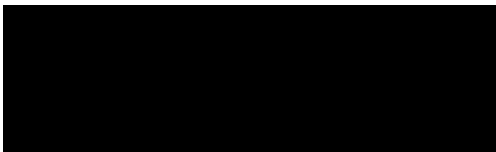
recommend removing 'adult' from cl6 to ensure protections are inclusive and do not exclude younger workers who may also face discrimination.

4. **Local Government Regulations:** I support the prohibition on local governments from making laws that discriminate against sex work. Further, small groups and collectives of sex workers should operate without needing council permission, as this maintains privacy and safety without unnecessary bureaucratic barriers.
5. **Liquor Act Amendments:** While supportive of the amendments, I also advocate for a comprehensive review of the Adult Entertainment laws to ensure that all sectors of the sex industry are decriminalised and free from police regulation.
6. **Review and Awareness:** I strongly support the inclusion of a review provision within 4-5 years of the Act's commencement. Additionally, as per QLRC Recommendation 38, it is crucial to implement public education and awareness programs to combat sex work stigma. The sex work organisation Respect Inc. should be resourced to lead these efforts, ensuring the message is delivered by those with lived experience.
7. **Expungement of Sex Work Offences:** Future legislation should include provisions for the expungement of sex work offences to address the ongoing impacts on those previously criminalised.

In closing, I urge the committee to consider these recommendations and support the passage of the Bill with minimal changes. This reform is not just about legal adjustments; it's about human rights, safety, and dignity for all sex workers. As someone who stands in solidarity with my colleagues in Queensland and across Australia, I believe this Bill represents a critical step towards justice and equity for sex workers.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Yours sincerely,



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