

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

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To: [Housing, Big Build and Manufacturing Committee](#)
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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.
As a sex worker, I am directly affected by the proposed changes, so I wish for my wholehearted support for the full decriminalisation of sex work in Queensland be taken into account in this process.

As a sex worker for ten years, decrim is important to me for many reasons. A compelling reason is safety. I know from the experience of working in the Northern Territory before decrim there and after, that it does have a tangible and demonstrative affect on my safety at work. I am much more likely to report crime and seek assistance from the police, Removing the police as the enforcers and placing them in the role of service and support builds a cooperative relationship, and builds trust between the two communities. Instead of worrying if I may face repercussions for reporting violence against me if I wasn't following harmful and outdated laws, I was much more likely to seek support and justice.

The stigma that criminalising the industry creates, only makes workers like myself more vulnerable to exploitation and abuse. Violent men will seek vulnerable women. Women who are especially afraid to report violence, to fear engaging with police and who can have unlawful acts as simple as using a driver held over their heads, make for a vulnerable population that is purposely targeted by these individuals. Stigma is dangerous and creates a breeding ground for abuse. We deserve to live our lives with dignity and safety.

Currently sex workers cannot work together. With decrim we would have more options to work together. Community is vital, especially to sex workers who as a group continue to face unique hardships and discrimination. I would like the safety of working with others if I choose to. I want to be able to work within the law and still stay safe and remain connected to my community.

Having worked in a state before decrim can in and after, I'd also like to assuage some common fears.

The sex worker community did not change in size/numbers. It didn't encourage other people to become sex workers. It simply made those already in the industry safer. The practices of sex workers when it came to general health and Workplace health and safety only improved. There was not less use of condoms or different services offered. Peer education and support has the largest effect on WHS. Our health remained just as important as it did before decrim, and we had the tools and education to maintain that. Safer sex always remained a part of workplace health and safety.

Thank you for considering my submission.

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

Yours Sincerely,
Astrid Day

