

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

**Submission No:** 152  
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### Submitter Comments:

To whom it may concern, I have been a sex worker for the past decade and I thoroughly endorse and support decriminalisation as I have seen and witnessed the benefits firsthand both personally and within the sex worker community. Though I currently reside in Victoria, I regularly work around the country with Brisbane being a city I love to visit-- but I would love it a lot more if decriminalisation became a reality there just as it has recently passed in Victoria. As I've worked around the country, I'm very familiar with the law & regulatory variations state-to-state and the significant impact they have on me just trying to go about my business. Currently, QLD is dangerously far behind with its legalisation model that enacts many difficult to follow laws and regulations. For instance, as I type this I am actually sitting in a hotel room on tour in Brisbane right now. The hotel I'm staying at is comprised of 3 separate towers, each containing hundreds of units. Under current sex work laws, two sex workers may not work from the same hotel given the broad definition of 'premises' in the unlawful prostitution section in the Criminal Code 1899. A totally impractical law, because how would I be able to know whether one of the hundreds of other rooms in this complex was being used by another escort right now? Or whether a man staying in another room at the hotel booked a sex worker for an outcall? Yet I'm expected to take criminal responsibility for that possibility. Other issues that may seem insignificant on the surface can actually cause a great deal of harm, such as the current inability to list services. This greatly hinders our ability to act like any other business. Being able to state what services you offer is essential so that a mutually beneficial consensual exchange can be negotiated, otherwise it can lead to having to negotiate those things in person where a sex worker may feel pressured or threatened into providing a service they otherwise normally would not. It also leads to endless queries about services which eats up our time doing admin that in other states is not necessary, I have seen the change first hand in Victoria when decrim allowed us to finally list our services on our ads and I no longer had to explain all of them via text message to every second client. Perhaps one of the most heinous laws currently enacted is the inability to hire any kind of security, driver, or admin assistance lest they be charged with 'knowingly participating in the provision of prostitution'. In no other business is someone barred from expanding their business or keeping themselves safe. The current laws cannot be made out to be about protecting sex workers when they make it plainly illegal to hire security or work with another sex worker from a shared space-- another commonly employed safety strategy in our work. Instead, they force isolation and leave police as enforcers of our industry. You cannot have police as an enforcement power but simultaneously expect or encourage sexworkers to turn to police in times of need after serious assaults, rapes, and robberies. This abolition of their role is perhaps the most fundamental act of decriminalisation, and will lead to better safety outcomes for the entire community. I hope that soon in the future, my Queensland visits will be filled with a lot less anxiety and stress from the constant need to ensure 100% compliance to these laws and the many more that dictate our ability to earn how/when/where we like and are safe.