

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

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**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. This submission is in support of the Decriminalisation Bill.

I'm a sex worker in Queensland, I have been doing sex work for 25 years. It was my main form of income while I was at university completing a degree and post graduate education. I was at University of Queensland, Griffith University, then went back to Uni of Queensland. During this time I worked in two different licensed brothels (2005-2006 in Bowen Hills and 2017 in Townsville), I rented a residential unit, shared with a friend and worked independently seeing clients in Highgate Hill (2007-2008). I traveled to rural areas doing independent escort bookings (Cairns 2009, Townsville 2010, 2011, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018), I pay my tax and I have a mortgage.

Decriminalisation is important to me because my work is work, and I want all sex workers (including myself) to be treated as people doing a job, and not to be treated as a criminal.

I do not want sex work to be subject to police attention or surveillance just because it is a certain type of work. I want more options than just working alone or in licensed brothels. The licensed brothel sector is a very specific way of making money; mostly when I was working successfully in the licensed brothel sector I was doing long overnight shifts. This is fine for people who can work the overnight shift. For the different years I did overnight shifts I really appreciated the work and the income. But now that I am older and do a range of part time work, long night shifts really don't suit my needs. And there are only a few licensed brothels anyway. My preference now is to see a few clients a week from home at the inner-city unit I own.

Currently I am meant to work alone only. I do not work alone, I work with trusted colleagues. This means I am breaking Queensland law. If myself or my colleague experienced theft or assault, would we report it to the police? I have

not had to make that decision. But I decide everyday to work safely and therefore I work illegally.

It is crucially important to me that the decriminalisation bill is implemented this year, and that there is no delay. Every day I am still having to decide to work safely and therefore illegally. Every day I am at risk of being unable to report incidents to police if something happened. This vulnerability is unjustified.

I am not the only person in my building who has a home-based business. For example my neighbour has a bespoke sewing business, working with gorgeous fabrics and having her clients visit for fittings. Like me, she has colleagues who come and use the workspace for a reasonable fee. This is how home-based businesses work well, we are less isolated when we have a network of support. It's safer, better for my mental health and more financially viable when I can let a colleague use my work room. People who are trusted, I don't live with them, neither does my neighbour, but they come over to use the space. I keep a very functional, clean and pleasant work environment in my home, it makes sense to me for others to be able to use it from time to time too. It is not a criminal environment. The laws should not be special for my type of work.

There are 18 units in the block of flats where I live. As well as two of us having home-based businesses, almost everyone else in the block works from home at least once a week. About half the people in the block are living in a unit that they also own. It is a high foot-fall area, there is lots of pedestrian traffic. There is off-street parking in my block but I have learnt that sex work clients don't want to park here. They are coming to me for a confidential private booking, they don't want me to know their number plate. They prefer to work out the parking situation themselves and walk to the front foyer where the security panel is. I can see them there and buzz them up the elevator.

The Decriminalisation Bill will mean I am able to use safety strategies, I am not afraid to report crime, I am not fearful of criminal charges or arrest, I am able to comply with the law, and I am participating in my block of units like any other home based business. This would have no impact on my neighbours or anyone else, but it will have a great impact on improving my rights, financial security, mental health and safety.

The other benefit of the Decriminalisation Bill is that it will send a message to others that my work is real work. There should be less stigma and discrimination against sex workers. Sex workers should have workplace options and a variety of ways to work, without having to choose from a tiny number of licensed brothels that all only offer overnight shifts and full service.

Most importantly, being able to work together and being protected from discrimination is vital to my life. If I do any brothel shifts they should provide me

with condoms. The workplace should be following all the usual rules and responsibilities.

In other places; NSW, Victoria, Northern Territory and New Zealand, nothing substantially has changed about the industry after decriminalisation. The size stayed the same. The prices stayed the same (unfortunately!). The number of clients didn't increase. Everyone still uses condoms. All this is basically the same.

I am happy for this to be publicised on the Committee website but not with my name.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]