

8 October 2019

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Dr Jennifer Buckley
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Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory
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Dear Dr Buckley

SEX INDUSTRY Bill 2019

The Law Society Northern Territory (**Society**) appreciates the opportunity to provide a submission about the *Sex Industry Bill 2019* (**Bill**).

The Society was consulted and made written submissions to the government prior to the Bill being introduced to Parliament. The Society welcomes the introduction and congratulates government on the Bill.

The Society supports the decriminalisation of the sex industry and supports the development and enforcement of occupation health and safety standards and fair work practices. .

The Society supports the Bill. However, we would support a change to Clause 15 to allow for businesses to advertise employment opportunities to prospective workers. This is important as it will help to reduce stigma. Further it will allow for transparency so that potential employees know what is involved in the position they are applying for. It would also better facilitate prospective employees being able to ensure that they are paid award rates where applicable.

The Society congratulates the Government on the provisions that mandate the destruction of certain documents. However, this Bill provides an opportunity to amend the Bill to ensure any criminal convictions and any historic spent convictions (other than those that relate to infants) are also expunged from the record. This records have a long lasting impact and may prevent sex workers from obtaining other employment, may prevent travel and be used against sex workers in custody hearings. We urge the Committee to recommend the Bill be passed subject to the abovementioned amendments.

Should you have any queries in relation to this response, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kellie Grainger".

KELLIE GRAINGER
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
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