

From: [REDACTED]
To: [EPSC EPSC](#)
Subject: SUBMISSION : Sex Industry Bill 2019
Date: Tuesday, 8 October 2019 1:36:02 PM

Introduction

I am a resident of the NT, and I have a keen interest in the rights and liberties of individuals in our communities. This includes ensuring that all workers have workplace protections, access to justice and the opportunity for a rewarding work life. My opinions have formed through conversations with sex workers, who have been generous enough to share their opinions and perspectives. I firmly believe that their voices should be centred in the consideration of this Bill. Sex work is work!

The Assembly should PASS this Bill

Doing so will bring this industry into line with other industries in the Territory in enabling workers to have access to workplace health and safety provisions, to their work contracts/agreements being valid, and to the protections of our justice system when they need it. It will make sex workers and their employers responsible for complying with existing legislation and regulations that apply to other businesses including workplace health and safety legislation.

The Assembly should AMEND this Bill

Advertising restrictions and suitability certificates have no place within this Bill, which aims to bring this industry into line with others in providing rights and responsibilities for workers and operators. I am particularly concerned about the requirements for sex workers sharing space (for safety, as well as for economics) or support staff and otherwise working together - independently - would be required to have suitability certificates when they have chosen to be self-employed sole traders rather than to have employment and management structures. There is no valid justification for this provision, which merely looks like a replacement for the offensive, ineffective and damaging register that has been in place and is due to be destroyed (for good reason) with the passing of this Act.

The Bill has sufficient regard to the rights and liberties of individuals

This Bill gives sex workers the long-recognised rights of workers in this state and country, removes the legal discriminations against them, gives them freedom to trade (within legislation that applies to all business operators and workers), and does so without impinging on the rights and liberties of any group of individuals.

The Bill has sufficient regard to the institution of Parliament

This Bill places the regulation of all aspects of the sex industry in the NT in the hands of our Parliament, through the full range of legislation we have in place for the way in which businesses are run and how workers are managed. That is a much deeper control than Parliament has ever had of the industry under criminalisation, where it has been left to the police to informally (and possibly inconsistently) regulate, control and make decisions about the treatment of sex workers and operators.

I submit to the Parliament that this Bill be passed, for the benefit of worker safety, individual liberties, fairness, justice and a healthy community.

