

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [EPSC EPSC](#)  
**Subject:** NT Sex Industry Bill 2019  
**Date:** Tuesday, 8 October 2019 2:16:57 PM

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Dear Committee Chair,

I am a resident of Darwin and support the full decriminalization of sex work in the NT as proposed by the NT Sex Industry Bill 2019 introduced to parliament 18 September 2019.

The Bill will bring the NT into line with best practice globally. It is significant that decriminalization is supported by the likes of the United Nations and its organisations, the World Health Organisation, Amnesty International, the International Labor Office and the Global Alliance Against Trafficking in Women. It also sits within Australia's national BBV and STI strategies.

The Bill will also ensure that sex workers in the NT will have equal protection under the law as other workers in other industries. That is, the Bill will enable sex work to be regulated under the same laws and regulations that govern other industries. This will cover the NTG's own operations as well as the likes of the ATO and Workcover.

It is instructive that full decriminalization of sex work in NSW has placed the industry there in the total framework of government regulation, ranging across industrial, taxation, planning, health, fraud, violence, sexual assault, harassment and criminal laws. Police are not involved as regulators of the industry at any level unless there is a reported breach of law. Full decriminalization gives sex workers access to the protection of existing laws in ways that a 'de-regulation' or 'no regulation' industry never has.

It is critical that sex workers are particularly provided access to workplace health and safety protections afforded other workers. Studies continue to amplify that full decriminalization of the sex industry leads to the best health outcomes, even to the point where rates of HIV and STI are at least the same or lower than those in the general public.

It is important to emphasize that the NT Sex Industry Bill does not endorse sex work, it enables parliament to effectively govern the sex industry consistent with its governance of other industries, including the protection of workers.

Repealing current Prostitution Acts will have a positive impact on the health, safety, industrial rights and access to justice of sex workers. It is critical that in repealing these laws that all personal information obtained through police registration is destroyed. The register at present is a lifelong register, with no means of having oneself removed from the register.

The NT Sex Industry Bill will assist in protecting sex workers from discrimination. Other areas of the law are needed too, especially within the NT Anti Discrimination Act, but the Bill will help to protect workers, in so many aspects of their lives, from the widespread discrimination that flows from the ignorance and disrespect of others in society. This is historical and deep seated. It is also wrong.

Sincerely, LV  
(a concerned member of the NT community)