

To the committee:

I am a resident of the Northern Territory. I have a full time job that is often stressful, will take me away from home for long periods of time, and will move me around the country. Due to this lifestyle, it is difficult to find a companion, and one that is comfortable with such an unsettled life style. This is where I found myself seeing sex workers. The ability to have an intimate, and physical relationship with someone during times i thought i would be alone has helped me more than i initially thought it ever would.

As a client to sex workers, I believe without a doubt that the Sex Industry Bill 2019 should be passed. I am thankful for their services and in return try to accommodate the requirements of the worker, whether its a screening process all the way to physical boundaries as to help them feel safe. The fact that the workers health and safety is almost entirely decided by the client, is terrible. The passing of the Sex Industry Bill 2019 would give workers protection under the Work, Health and Safety act, and protection from the police force without concern of them being prosecuted themselves. They deserve the right to feel safe, and protected, with access to proper compensation for work related injuries, just as every other worker has access to.

I've had small discussions with a local worker, and believe there are still amendments to be made. Primarily, the current advertising restrictions for positions as a sex worker. The bill states that it is the full decriminalization of sex work, however in Para. 15.1, it states that it is "an offence if the person places an advertisement for sex work in a newspaper or on television or radio". This causes parlours to falsely advertise for positions. They should be able to be transparent with their advertising, and fall under the same language and decency guidelines that any other business fall under.

The passing of the Sex Industry Bill 2019 will not affect me directly, but i whole-heartedly support it. These sex workers deserve to have the same rights as anyone else. This bill would put NT on the forefront of the global stage for the decriminalization of sex work, and would lead as a role model for everyone to follow. As i see it, there are no downsides to decriminalization, only better steps forward into the future.