

21st December 2012

Committee Secretary
Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee
Legcon.sen@aph.gov.au

Reference: Endorsement of Submission to The Exposure Draft of Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Bill 2012 by Scarlet Alliance, Australian Sex Workers Association

Dear Committee Secretary,

Respect Inc is a peer based sex workers' organisation funded by Queensland Health to provide peer education services by sex workers to sex workers. Respect Inc has been delivering information, education, advocacy and support services to sex workers from offices in Brisbane, Townsville and Cairns since January 2010 and recently in the Gold Coast.

Our members come from every sector of the sex industry and some of us have over 30 years experience in various sectors of the Queensland sex industry. The views of Respect Inc are not influenced by commercial competition.. Our opinions are not based on financial concerns; our focus is solely on sex workers' health, safety and civil rights.

In regards to legislation responding to discrimination, we have recently been made more aware of how important having rights as defined by legislation and an appropriate mechanism for response to discrimination which causes detrimental consequences is for most sex workers. This was brought about during many discussions that we witnessed within the Queensland sex industry during the recent changes to the Queensland Anti Discrimination Act.

We support any changes that are going to increase knowledge and opportunities for people to respond to discrimination. We also support any initiatives that will prevent incidents occurring through social policy such as the proposed changes.

We are particularly concerned with the limited coverage of discrimination because of peoples involvement within the sex industry. Although Queensland sex workers operating within the legal framework are covered by the Queensland ADAct in many circumstances, it does not provide for the necessary coverage to respond to most incidents.

However, over the last fifteen years many sex workers have successfully lodged complaints and received some form of justice through the ADCQ. This shows that there is

Brisbane
28 Mein Street
Spring Hill Q 4000
07 38351111

Townsville
118a Charters Towers Road
Hermit Park Q 4812
07 47244853

Cairns
7/24 Florence Street
Cairns City Q 4870
07 40515009

Gold Coast
4 Bay Street
Southport Qld 4215
07 56570857

discrimination based solely on a person's choice to provide a sexual service in an open and honest business arrangement.

For this reason, we endorse the submission being lodged by Scarlet Alliance, Australian Sex Workers Association. We are a member of Scarlet Alliance and support their opinions regarding the rights of sex workers through out Australia.

For any more information, our Management Committee can be contacted

Yours truly,

Jenny King
Chairperson