

Sex work should not be controlled by Police

In 2018 police are regulating more than 80% of the sex industry in Queensland



The **1989 Fitzgerald Inquiry** found excessive levels of police corruption in relation to sex work and recognised the need to remove police from this role. Ten years later the **Prostitution Act 1999** was introduced to license brothels with extreme barriers to compliance. Sex workers are still monitored by police for charges including those under the **Criminal Code 1899**. In **2018** at least **80%** of the sex industry (including independent sex work) is still under police regulation.



Charges against mainly women for sex work offences has increased up to 450%

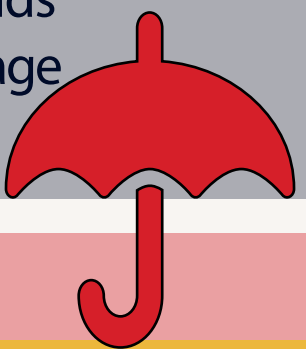
The 2016 -17 Queensland Police statistical review shows: 'Prostitution' offences up by **57%**, advertising offences up by **450%**, 'knowingly participate in the provision of prostitution' offences up by **126%** and that **'offenders were mostly women over 30 years old'**.



Many aspects of sex work are criminalised-most sex workers can't operate legally

Entrapment is legal and is used against sex workers by police posing as clients

- Basic safety strategies are illegal for sex workers
- working together (cost share, support, safety)
- messaging another sex worker about current location
- checking in or out when a client arrives and leaves
- using a driver another sex worker uses and recommends
- describing the services offered even using coded language
- employing a receptionist



Police cannot be both the prosecutors and the protectors

When police are the regulators of the sex industry sex workers are reluctant to report crimes/harassment. Making yourself known to police is considered likely to result in future surveillance, a charge or deportation. Describing an offence to police often means admitting that you are undertaking activities that are essential for your safety but illegal in Queensland. Sex workers state that police do not take reports by sex workers seriously or their treatment discourages continuing with the report. The 2017 needs assessment of sex workers working in licensed brothels, the 'Regulating Bodies Report' found 50% of sex worker respondents would not report an assault to police.

Police resources are diverted away from serious crimes

67% of 'prostitution'-related infringements are for advertising discrepancies. Queensland's sex work advertising laws are complex and criminalise wording and descriptions used in other industries and in other states and territories.

Is this a good use of already stretched police resources?



#DecrimQLD

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