

The **National HIV Strategy** recognises **voluntary** NOT mandatory testing as the **best-practice approach**.

Unnecessary testing results in long wait times in clinics with appointment resources drained by unnecessary testing instead of prioritising access for those with symptoms or in need.

The **Lancet series on sex work** found:

“decriminalisation of sex work would have the greatest effect on the course of HIV epidemics across all settings, averting 33-46% of HIV infections in the next decade.”



Sex workers in Queensland have:

- high rates of condom use
- regular testing, and
- good sexual health in spite of current laws.



Queensland’s Sexual Health Strategy notes that fear of authority and working outside the legal sector are barriers to accessing health services for sex workers.

The legal framework in Queensland has resulted in more than **80%** of sex workers working outside of the legal sector.

“The **public health evidence clearly shows** the **harms associated with** all forms of sex work **criminalisation**, including regulatory systems, which effectively leave the most marginalised, and typically the majority of, sex workers outside of the law.” (i.e. in Queensland)

“These legislative models deprioritise sex workers’ safety, health and rights and hinder access to due process of law.”

The evidence shows **decriminalisation can** “increase the ability to report incidences of violence and **facilitate access to services.**”



Police in Queensland can legally entrap sex workers by posing as clients and requesting illegal/unprotected services.

Public health, sexual health & decrim



Rather than providing protection for sex workers, mandatory condom laws are being used against sex workers in Queensland.



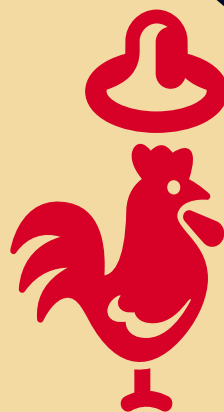
Keep police out of sex workers’ bedrooms/workplaces
Police are not trained or qualified to be the **safe sex police!!!**
Leave sexual health education to the experts!

National STI Strategy: “Strong and sustained health promotion programs among sex workers have led to rates of STI’s... among the lowest in the world.”



Queensland Sexual Health Strategy: “...the rate of HIV and sexually transmissible infections (STI’s) amongst sex workers in Australia is low due to prevention initiatives driven by peer education, support networks and outreach. These prevention initiatives include provision of information regarding safe practices, condoms and lubricant.”

It is peer education NOT policing that results in high levels of condom use & regular testing by sex workers. Sexual health professionals recognise sex workers can play an important role as the safer sex educators of our clients.



#DecrimQLD is a committee of sex workers who have joined with Respect Inc, the state sex worker organisation, to achieve decriminalisation in Queensland.
Phone: 0491 228 509 Email: DecrimQLD@respectqld.org.au
Web: www.respectqld.org.au/decriminalise-sex-work/

