

SEX WORK IS WORK

PROTECTING SEX WORKERS RIGHTS

All workers deserve protection, recognition and equal rights in the workplace – sex work should be no different.

Sex workers in NSW are subject to unnecessary additional challenges, compared to other workers in NSW. They face unique legislative hurdles and barriers to accessing their workplace rights, and are burdened by social stigma and discrimination.

THE GREENS WILL

- **Defend the decriminalisation of all sex work.** Stand firm against the criminalisation of sex work and defend the right of sex workers to operate without the requirement for registration and oversight by law enforcement agencies.
- **End discrimination against sex workers.** Include sex work as a protected class in legislation including the Anti-Discrimination Act, the Sex Discrimination Act and the Fair Work Act.
- **Ensure industrial rights and safe working conditions.** Support the right of sex workers to independently advocate and organise for their rights in sex worker-run organisations and/or unions, and facilitate access to industrial rights and workplace standards for sex workers.
- **Support community outreach and peer education.** Encourage and support optimal sex worker health through adequately resourced, evidence-based peer education, community outreach, voluntary testing and enforcement of occupational health and safety standards.

- **Listen, acknowledge, respect.** Listen to sex workers and their experiences within the industry to inform the development of best practice policy and legislation.

DEFENDING DECRIMINALISATION

Decriminalisation is the only regulatory model that supports sex workers' rights in the workplace. A decriminalised industry results in lower rates of HIV and STIs and amplifies opportunities for community outreach, peer education and maximises compliance with occupational health and safety standards.

In a decriminalised framework all sex work industry businesses should be governed just like any other businesses and are subject to existing workplace regulatory mechanisms. Most importantly police are not involved as regulators of the industry thereby reducing overreach and discrimination.

Other models such as the Swedish Model (where the purchase of sex work is criminalised) do not increase safety and wellbeing of sex workers but rather lead to isolation, lower wellbeing and further social stigma and discrimination around sex work.

The Greens will continue to support the decriminalisation framework and strongly resist any moves to adopt the Swedish model or criminalise sex work here in NSW.

ENDING DISCRIMINATION

Sex workers face discrimination and unfair treatment under the law, including when seeking rental accommodation or applying for jobs. A number of other Australian states and territories have introduced legislation to end discrimination against sex workers.

The Greens will introduce a bill to include sex work as a protected class in legislation including the Anti-Discrimination Act, the Sex Discrimination Act and the Fair Work Act.

FAIR PAY & SAFE WORKING CONDITIONS

The Greens will support the right of sex workers to independently advocate and organise for their rights in sex worker-run organisations and/or unions.

Prescribed employment relationships often do not match sex workers' experiences in the workplace, denying sex workers access to entitlements (eg, superannuation, leave entitlements, etc) and the ability to negotiate effectively with employers.

The Greens will work with sex workers to ensure decent work conditions for sex workers and their ability to organise for, and access, their industrial rights and standards.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH & PEER EDUCATION

Excellent sex worker health is the result of a combination of community outreach programs and positive peer education. Yet many legislators still advocate for disclosure laws,

mandatory testing and the criminalisation of HIV positive sex workers – these have the opposite effect: creating barriers, increasing isolation and decreasing the likelihood that sex workers will reach out and utilise vital health services.

To promote excellent health standards The Greens will continue to support a best practice approach of voluntary testing for workers, peer education and the rollout of occupational health and safety standards.

LISTEN. ACKNOWLEDGE. RESPECT.

Sex workers are rarely treated as the experts that they are when it comes to their own profession and industry. This leads to decisions being made for, rather than by, them – with policies that endanger and injure sex workers being the ultimate result.

The Greens will ensure that sex workers' voices are heard and acknowledged when it comes to the development and review of policy and laws related to the sex industry and that they always have a seat at the table. The only way for us to create effective legislation is to listen and learn from those with direct sex work experience.