



Vixen Collective, Victoria's peer only sex worker organisation Media Release - Tuesday 15th September 2015

Vixen Collective, Victoria's peer only sex worker organisation, calls for the full decriminalisation of sex work in Victoria as a vital and urgent step that government must take for the health and safety of Victorian sex workers!

Decriminalisation is the removal of all criminal laws relating to the sex industry, allowing sex work to be regulated like any other business - this does not mean no regulation, but that the sex industry should be regulated like other businesses.

"Violence against sex workers happens not just because of individuals who choose to perpetrate violence, but because the laws governing sex work, and the way sex workers are viewed in our society allows it to."

MJ - Victorian sex worker

The full decriminalisation of sex work is recognised as the worlds' best practice model for sex industry regulation - by the United Nations, the World Health Organisation, Amnesty International, Australia's HIV Strategy, multiple medical studies, and sex workers' representative organisations across Australia and the world.

It is critical that the voices of sex workers be heard, in order for the rights of sex workers be recognised, and the safety of sex workers given protection by law.

" Stop talking about sex workers and start listening to us!"

Rahni Belle - Victorian sex worker

Victorian sex workers stand in solidarity with sex workers in New South Wales, as an Inquiry into the Regulation of Brothels in NSW places decriminalisation there under threat.

We recognise full decriminalisation of sex work is the only acceptable model of regulation for sex workers' human rights, labour rights, health and safety .

We ask the *NSW Legislative Assembly Select Committee on the Regulation of Brothels* recognise this also, and in doing so endorse retaining decriminalisation in NSW as the only acceptable outcome of the inquiry.

Signed in solidarity, and agreement of the above:

Jane Green, Media Liaison, **Vixen Collective (Victoria's Peer Only Sex Worker Organisation)**

Janelle Fawkes, CEO, **Scarlet Alliance (Australian Sex Workers Association)**

Cameron Cox, CEO, **Sex Workers Outreach Project New South Wales (SWOP-NSW)**

Leanne Melling & Skye Ozanne, **Sex Workers Outreach Project Northern Territory (SWOP-NT)**

Renai Buchanan, Organiser, **People for Sex Worker Rights Western Australia (PSR-WA)**

Candi Forrest, Treasurer, **Respect Inc (Support for Queensland Sex Workers)**

Tarkwin Coles, President, **Sex Worker Action Group - Gaining Empowerment, Rights & Recognition (SWAGGERR)**

Lexxie Jury, Peer Education Officer, **Sex Workers Outreach Project Australian Capital Territory (SWOP-ACT)**

Sharon Jennings, Manager, **South Australian Sex Industry Network (SIN)**

Josephine Rayson, Acting Manager, **Magenta (Sex Worker Support Project for Western Australia)**

Resourcing health & EDucation (RhED), a program of Inner South Community Health (ISCHS)

Lucy Blake, Delegate, **Nothing About Us Without Us (NAUWU)**

Difficult Debby & Despo Debby, Members, **Debby Doesn't Do It For Free (Sex Worker Arts & Performance Collective)**

Saul Isbister, President/Public Officer, **Touching Base Inc**

Fiona Patten, MLC for Northern Metropolitan (Victoria Parliament), **Australian Sex Party**

Simon Ruth, Chief Executive Officer, **Victorian AIDS Council**

Brent Allen, CEO, **Living Positive Victoria**

Jenny Kelsall, Executive Officer, **Harm Reduction Victoria**

Mark Stoové, Associate Professor, Burnet Institute Principal for Sexual and Reproductive Health, **Burnet Institute**

Dr Graham Brown, Snr Research Fellow, **Aust. Research Centre in Sex, Health & Society (ARCSHS), La Trobe University**

Rob Lake, Executive Director, **Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations (AFAO)**

For further media information/interviews, please contact - Jane Green, Vixen Collective Media Liaison: 0420 887 845