



## **Vixen Collective, Victoria's peer only sex worker organisation Media Release – Monday, 21<sup>st</sup> May 2018**

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### **Victorian Liberals state “no plan” to adopt ‘Nordic Model’ sex work laws in Victoria**

Vixen Collective, Victoria's peer only sex worker organisation, are pleased to announce that Leader of the Liberal Party in Victorian Parliament, the Hon. Matthew Guy MP, has stated the following:

*“The Liberal Nationals have no plan to adopt the ‘Nordic Model’ for the policing of sex work in Victoria”*

Vixen Collective recognises the hard work of sex workers in Victoria and across Australia in successfully opposing Liberal Party support for harmful ‘Nordic Model’ laws, as well as the work of Scarlet Alliance (Australian Sex Workers Association) and other peer-based sex worker organisations across the country, and of allies and supporters who have joined us in this fight.

Sex workers in Victoria, Australia and internationally oppose harmful ‘Nordic Model’ laws, as they have been shown to:

- ) Increase violence against sex workers
- ) Hinder the ability of sex workers to report crime to police
- ) Reduce sex workers ability to negotiate the use of condoms
- ) Cause loss of income for sex workers and a deterioration of sex workers’ living conditions
- ) Not fulfill the stated goals of the ‘Nordic Model’, as these laws do not reduce sex work and there is no evidence that they reduce trafficking

We welcome this statement from the Hon. Matthew Guy making clear that the Liberal Nationals have no plans to adopt the ‘Nordic Model’, but note that:

- ) No law or policy relating to sex work should be made without consultation with sex workers and our peer-based representative organisations
- ) Failure by government to consult with our community produces law and policy that harms sex workers
- ) Evidence shows that sex workers’ rights, health and safety are best supported by the full decriminalisation of sex work

We expect in future that the Liberal Party, or any other political party in Victoria, recognise that consultation with sex workers and our peer-based representative organisations is indispensable, prior to law or policy being formed on sex work.

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