



JOINT STATEMENT: Friday, 13th September 2019

Vixen Collective (Victoria's peer only sex worker organisation) & Scarlet Alliance, Australian Sex Workers Association

INACCURATE LEGAL INFORMATION IN VICTORIA RISKS SEX WORKERS' SAFETY

Sex workers need correct legal information, especially since sex work laws in Victoria are so complex.

Incorrect legal information can lead to sex workers being in breach of the law, causing a range of issues including; police attention, arrest, charges, prosecution, jail, criminal records, and deportation.

In the first week of July this year, a group called 'Sex Work Law Reform Victoria' (SWLRV) published a 'law guide' online that contained incorrect information about sex work laws in Victoria.

The local sex industry health service RhED provided translation services for this 'law guide' (Chinese, Korean, Thai and Vietnamese), promoted the 'law guide' on social media and directly distributed the 'law guide'. Distributing and promoting incorrect legal information places sex workers at risk.

Who is SWLRV? - In mid-2018 Star Health (who are the organisation who manages RhED's funding) was involved in the decision to set up SWLRV, and decided SWLRV would be "supported by RhED" and that "there will be two agencies, RhED and Sex Work Law Reform Victoria, advocating with the same voice". We have asked Star Health to take action, remove the 'law guide' urgently and to have a policy that prevents incidents that risk community safety in this way in future.

We note that neither RhED or SWLRV are recognised by Scarlet Alliance, Australian Sex Workers Association, as organisations that represent the interests of sex workers.

Please note, for those wishing to access relevant and correct legal information on sex work laws in Victoria, the following sources of information are available:

-) Scarlet Alliance (for state by state laws)
<http://www.scarletalliance.org.au/laws/>
Victorian info - <http://www.scarletalliance.org.au/laws/vic/>

-) Vixen Collective
Legal Info - <http://vixencollective.net/legal/>
Latest Legal Info - <http://vixencollective.net/legal/latest-legal-info/>
Resources - <http://vixencollective.net/resources/>
(see Vixen's resources directory for a no. of peer-reviewed legal resources from St Kilda Legal Service)

) Peer reviewed legal information relating to sex work is available on the website of the local community legal service, St Kilda Legal Service:
<http://www.skls.org.au/legal-help/sex-work/legal-information-for-professionals/>
(local sex workers contributed to these fact sheets through focus groups facilitated by Vixen Collective)

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