

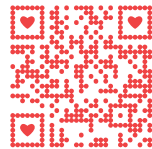
What are sex workers actually asking for?

- **Full decriminalisation of sex work with clear protections against discrimination and vilification for all sex workers.**
- **Sustainable, long-term and flexible funding for peer sex worker organisations** to support sex workers, provide health and safety peer education, and empower our communities.
- **Dedicated sex worker legal services** to provide tailored legal assistance and support access to justice.
- **Health, workers' rights, and anti-violence organisations to openly support decriminalisation** and commit to making their services better for sex workers.

LEARN MORE ABOUT DECRIMINALISATION

Read our full briefing paper

This paper explains what full decriminalisation does and does not include and what sex workers want from sex work law reform.



SEX WORK IS WORK.

Sex workers want **decriminalisation now.**



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What does decriminalisation mean?

Full decriminalisation means *removing all* special laws that treat sex work differently from other jobs. This means getting rid of criminal laws, licensing systems, police powers and any other rules that single out sex workers, workplaces or clients.

Decriminalisation doesn't mean no rules. Sex workers would follow the same workplace, planning, tax, health and criminal laws as everyone else. Full decriminalisation must include clear protections against discrimination and vilification for all sex workers.

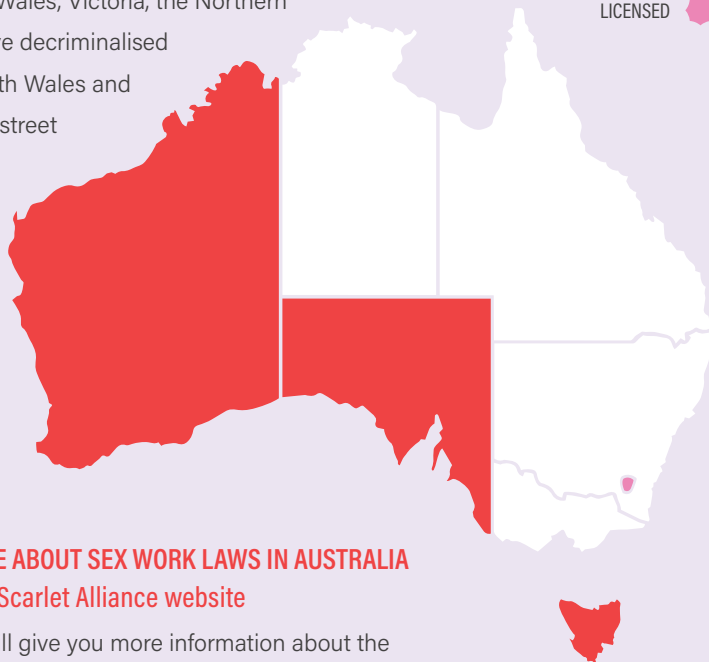
Full decriminalisation of sex work is proven to:

-  Promote sex workers' safety, wellbeing and inclusion in society
-  Reduce HIV transmission
-  Improve access to justice

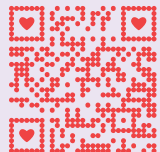
Decriminalisation of sex work in Australia

In Australia, only New South Wales, Victoria, the Northern Territory and Queensland have decriminalised sex work. However, New South Wales and Victoria have gaps regarding street based sex work.

Scarlet Alliance and our members continue to campaign for full decriminalisation across every state and territory in uncaded Australia.



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CRIMINALISED 
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LEARN MORE ABOUT SEX WORK LAWS IN AUSTRALIA
Head to the Scarlet Alliance website

This page will give you more information about the specific sex work laws in each state and territory.

Why do we want decriminalisation?



Safety and justice

Criminal laws and stigma make sex workers afraid to report assault, robbery or violence. Police may arrest workers instead of helping. Laws targeting street-based sex workers don't improve safety — they stop workers from screening clients, working together and building support networks.



Better health

Criminal laws and harsh policing create barriers to healthcare. International research shows harsh policing doubles the risk of HIV and STIs among sex workers. Mandatory testing or condom laws don't work and aren't needed — sex workers already prioritise health and safety.



Workers' rights

Sex work should have the same fair workplace protections as any job. Workplace health and safety guidelines written by sex workers are the best way to support sex workers' access to safe workplaces.

International support for decriminalisation comes from:



UNAIDS



World Health Organization



UN Population Fund, UNDP and UN
Working Group on Discrimination
Against Women and Girls



International Labour Organization



Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women



Amnesty International



Human Rights Watch