

# Ahead of the Curve: Sex Work & COVID-19

760 total payments to sex workers  
(49% of applicants)  
totalling \$180,998 paid out  
in mutual aid  
\$0 government crisis support

5 updates of CHO directives  
3 updates of crisis referral lists  
2 extensive Red Book resources  
5 languages

Doubled peer education demand

Tripled crisis support requests (SA)

400 counselling sessions for sex  
workers in NSW

1253% increase in sex workers  
accessing the red book online

## Report recommendations:

- Decriminalise all aspects of sex work in all jurisdictions in Australia
- Recognise sex workers and sex worker organisations as leaders, partners and experts
- Provide adequate financial support to sex workers and sex worker peer organisations
- Take a pragmatic evidence- and human rights-based approach to COVID-19 and other public health crisis responses impacting sex workers.

Only industry prohibited in stage 3 federal road map  
until advocacy reversed the decision

1st fines were sex workers in NSW & QLD when police were  
given extra COVID powers

July 2020:

50+ sex work related COVID fines in 1 week in Victoria  
15 fold increase in non-COVID charges against sex workers  
in Queensland in the first month back to work

20 sex workers reported human rights abuse by police in QLD

Most sex industry businesses targetted were Asian businesses  
providing massage and sexual services



Download the full COVID-19 & sex work in Australia report at:  
[https://scarletalliance.org.au/library/COVID\\_Report](https://scarletalliance.org.au/library/COVID_Report)

