



**Australian
Sex Workers
Association**

ANNUAL REPORT 2016-17



**Australian
Sex Workers
Association**

MISSION

Through its objectives, policies and programs, Scarlet Alliance works to achieve equality, social, legal, political, cultural and economic justice for past and present sex workers in order for sex workers to be self-determining agents, building their own alliances and choosing where and how they live and work.

The objectives for which Scarlet Alliance is established are:

1. To promote the civil and human rights of past and present sex workers and to work toward ending all forms of discrimination against them;
2. To lobby for legal and administrative frameworks which do not discriminate against sex workers;
3. To challenge any government at any time when and where it implements legislation, regulations, rules, policies or law enforcement practices which are discriminatory and/or repressive to the rights and autonomy of sex workers;
4. To actively promote the right of all sex workers to work in whatever area of their chosen occupation, including street, brothel, escort, private and opportunistic work;
5. To actively work towards guaranteeing the right of all sex workers to optimum occupational health and safety provisions. This will promote conditions where safe sex and general health knowledge can be converted to safe work practices. Furthermore, challenge any legislation, policy or process which does not so promote the rights of the worker;
6. To strive to eradicate sex worker stereotypes and stigmatisation in the popular consciousness and to communicate the diversity of ideas, opinions and aspirations of past and present sex workers;
7. To liaise with international sex worker rights groups in the development of regional and international networks, programs and objectives;
8. To support sex workers and sex worker organisations to become more politically active;
9. To enhance the capacity of sex workers to participate in advancing their rights and build networks & organisations;
10. To gather and disseminate sex industry related information to members;
11. To play an active role in Australia's response to HIV/AIDS;
12. To provide training and education on issues relating to the Australian sex industry and the migration of sex workers into Australia; and
13. To present up to date information on sex work issues at national and international forums.

These objects are undertaken in order to advance sex worker rights.

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ABOUT SCARLET ALLIANCE



Scarlet Alliance, Australian Sex Workers Association Inc. was formed in 1989. Scarlet Alliance represents sex workers and Australian state and territory-based sex worker community organisations and projects at a national level. Scarlet Alliance works collaboratively with researchers, academics, health professionals and government in order to develop and improve health programs, policy and research.

Our current membership includes individual sex workers, as well as state and territory based sex worker organisations, projects, networks and groups throughout Australia, along with our associate membership. This diversity ensures Scarlet Alliance is able to represent the issues affecting sex workers Australia wide.

Our member organisations provide over 20,000 occasions of service per annum to sex workers in Australia, and have knowledge and experience in the community based response spanning three decades. Most importantly our diverse membership is an example of communities, in this case sex work communities, effectively participating in our own response to HIV and the many issues that impact on a sex worker's ability to work safely.

Our member organisations' work is carried out through active partnerships with key service providers such as sexual health, legal, drug and alcohol services, police, and welfare services. Access and equity training is provided to these key service providers in order to meet service providers in order to meet the needs of sex workers and reduce stigma and discrimination.



Scarlet Alliance National Forum, Adelaide 2016

Scarlet Alliance is a sex worker organisation and our values reflect the highly successful Australian sex worker community-based response to HIV. Our member organisations, individual members, staff and executive are sex workers, and we are part of the solution to the HIV epidemic.

Australian sex workers have proven in the last two decades to be highly skilled, capable in our every day working lives of prevention of HIV and STI transmission, negotiation of safer sex practices, and presenting highly relevant sexual health education aimed at our sex work clients. The sex worker rights movement engages a range of tools and principles in our health promotion work with sex workers, such as peer education, community development, a rights based framework, harm reduction and workplace, health and safety.

We take pleasure in providing you with this 2016 – 2017 Annual Report. We hope it provides an insight into the varied work of Scarlet Alliance, our membership, and the financial position of the organisation, while highlighting key issues for sex workers in Australia.



Red Umbrella Rally for decriminalisation of sex work outside the Parliament House of South Australia, Adelaide 2016

Peer Education

The success of sex worker organisations and projects in Australia can be attributed to the employment of current or past sex workers as peer educators. Peer educators have lived experience of sex work, so are intimately acquainted with sex worker concerns.

An understanding of the needs of other sex workers in relation to confidentiality is an important asset to developing trust and relationships. Also, an understanding of sex worker cultural norms and a familiarity with key sex work skills means that peer educators can interact in appropriate ways with sex worker communities, and share skills and experiences with less experienced sex workers.

Sex work peer educators have long demonstrated their expertise as educators to other sex workers and clients of the sex industry. With in-depth and first-hand experience of the sex industry, peer educators formalise information, providing highly knowledgeable health education, support, referrals and equipment to other sex workers.

Sex worker community-based response

Australia has very low rates of HIV and STIs amongst sex workers, due to the response by sex workers, community-based sex worker organisations in partnership with other agencies and government. Scarlet Alliance directly liaises with sex worker communities in order to inform its policies and programs, demonstrating a high level of understanding in regards to community development in the fight against the transmission of HIV and STIs. This successful approach

to community development has removed significant barriers, enabling sex worker communities to mobilise as community-based organisations working in partnership with government to achieve public health outcomes.

The Australian government working with sex worker communities in this way has allowed for successful community participation in developing, designing and informing HIV prevention service delivery, policy, and program development.

Sex workers and wider community benefits

Community development has meant that sex workers become skilled peer educators as well as being able to educate our clients. Sex workers within Australia skill-share within our workplaces; the outcome is education of the wider community who access our services. This is a key element to Australia's successful response to HIV: sex workers have adopted high levels of condom usage as well as developing specific skills to negotiate safer sex practices with clients, who are largely uneducated in regards to HIV and STIs.

The Australian experience of community development has demonstrated that education does create safer sex practices. Sex workers are highly educated in safer sex practices, through accessing services provided by local communitybased sex worker organisations. Sex workers have the opportunity to take ownership of our profession, whether long term or transient, ensuring maximum holistic health benefits. The benefits to the wider community include improved public health outcomes as well as sexual and reproductive health outcomes.

PRESIDENT REPORT

Nominating for the role of President can appear a daunting task, but we have a strong community to lead and therefore guide and assist in carrying out this role. The sex worker community in Australia has strong ideas of what needs to be done to ensure Scarlet Alliance works towards our strategic visions and goals, creating a culture which looks at 'leadership' differently to mainstream approaches. While the President role was shared this year, we remained consistent in our focus, as overarchingly it is the sex worker community which governs Scarlet Alliance and provides our collective strength. Scarlet Alliance remains a functioning community run organisation accountable to our peers in a politically conservative and increasingly hostile funding environment.

Each year Scarlet Alliance's governing body is faced with decisions regarding funding, with a directive from membership to continue seeking more diversified streams so to remain independent and

viable. The harsher funding climate affects many national peak bodies, and has also had negative impacts on our member organisations, therefore this National Forum will dedicate time to discussing other income generating activities, and what limits our membership want seen placed on diversification. Regardless of the cuts experienced to our programs through the year, our work is 'best bang for buck' and essential in ensuring better functioning systems and better informed policy.

At national level, we ensured that sex workers were consulted as a priority population in the National BBV and STI Strategies consultations, and facilitated a sex worker only pre-meeting to include perspectives from a diverse range of sex workers in Australia. The National Strategies were considered for consolidation by the Department of Health, which Scarlet Alliance challenged. Consolidation of the strategies would have resulted in less coverage of nuances between priority populations



Scarlet Alliance President Ryan Cole with the Executive Committee at the 2016 Annual General Meeting, Adelaide



Ryan and Scarlet Alliance CEO Jules Kim at the ASTI HAW Breakfast at Parliament House, Canberra 2016

and communities and the legal climates they reside in. Emphasis was placed on the best practice of peer led programs in maintaining the low rates of HIV and STI's in the sex worker community, and the need to fund peer led programs and advocacy activities which challenge the stigma and discrimination experienced.

The socio-legal context in which we operate in Australia often remains hostile to sex workers, and we continue to challenge any government policies legislation or law enforcement practices which are discriminatory and/or repressive to the rights and autonomy of sex workers. As a member of AFAO with a position on its board of directors, Scarlet Alliance has an active role in Australia's response to HIV and works closely with other national peak organisations to ensure best practice, evidence informed, and human rights based approaches are implemented in policy and legislation.

Funding for peer organisations remains an issue for many communities, but we are

fortunate that our resiliency and experiences position us to best understand our communities needs through collaboration.

It is important that sex workers continue to be represented in areas such as migration and trafficking policy and our experiences are represented at the National Roundtable on Human Trafficking. The restrictions being imposed on people's mobility is indicative of a move away from human rights based frameworks within policies and legislation in Australia, particularly in relation to migration. The harsher funding climate has led to further reduced staff capacity, and the Migration Projects loss of funding through the Attorney General's Department. The NGO trafficking grants refocused energies on forced marriage over trafficking into the sex industry could be symptomatic of how successful Scarlet Alliance's lobbying has been over the years when challenging the additional discrimination and stigma experienced by migrant sex workers due to oppressive policing practices framed as trafficking.

Scarlet Alliance continues to achieve under challenging circumstances and with reduced funding. We continue to achieve due to the advocacy undertaken by every individual member of Scarlet Alliance, and we recognise and celebrate each voluntary action undertaken by you.



Ryan, Jules, Policy Officer Kali, Migration Project staff Miya and Polly at the Reclaim the Night Rally, Sydney 2016

CEO REPORT

It has been another exciting year full of the joys and frustrations that constitute advocacy for sex worker rights in Australia. We have seen slow and steady progress around Australia on law reform and policy changes driven by sex workers throughout the states and territories.

2017 saw the best practice bill for the full decriminalisation of all sex work (S.A. Statutes Amendment Decriminalisation of Sex Work Bill 2014) passing unamended through the upper house in South Australia. There has been overwhelming support for this bill locally and globally from sex workers, sex worker organisations, researchers, academics and health and human rights organisations. However, the final stage before this bill becomes a reality has been postponed and voting in the lower house is likely not to occur until next year.

In the Northern Territory, the Labor government has made a commitment to implementing decriminalisation of sex work during their term in office and a review of the Anti Discrimination Act suggests the inclusion of sex work as a protected attribute, with sex workers heavily involved in consultations for both.

Due to pressure from sex workers, the Australian Capital Territory has seen the reinvigoration of recommendations of the Review of the Sex Work Act, including the removal of the criminalisation of sex workers and clients living with HIV. And there are many more examples of how sex workers have been working towards reform of unjust and unworkable laws and policies for all sex workers.

But with progress comes opposition. We have witnessed a widespread increase in high profile police raids throughout Australia. These heavy handed raids result in media vilification, arrest and deportation



Scarlet Alliance CEO Jules Kim speaking on Plenary Session at the AIDS2016 Conference in Durban, South Africa

and do nothing to support the rights and safety of sex workers.

There has also been an increasing call from some quarters for licensing or sometimes erroneously referred to as 'decrim light' or 'licensing light'. As we know from sex worker's experience of the Swedish Model there is no viable alternative to the full decriminalisation of sex work for the rights, health and safety of all sex workers. Any deviation from full decriminalisation is just another form of criminalisation. This continual framing of sex workers and our workplaces as "illegal" to justify increased policing and surveillance into our workplaces, suggests there is something inherently dark, sinister or exploitative about our work. Instead it is more often the case that sex workers are inadvertently working outside the incredibly narrow and unworkable conditions that constitute legalisation, such as working together with a friend, hiring a receptionist, or working in the wrong location; and thereby being deemed as "illegal" or "criminal". Sex workers know and the evidence overwhelmingly shows that the full decriminalisation of sex work results in positive outcomes for sex workers, governments and the broader community.

2017 also saw the end of funding for the Scarlet Alliance Migration Project, a project run by and for sex workers. The Migration Project had been funded for the past 9 years through the Commonwealth trafficking grants for NGOs administered through the Federal Attorney-General's Department. At the beginning of the trafficking response, policing, laws and policy were firmly skewed towards sex work with almost constant raids by immigration and police of Asian sex workers in the name of anti trafficking.

The Migration Project and its Migrant Sex Worker Steering Committee have successfully worked to shift this away from an almost sole focus on trafficking and sex work. This has been evidenced by a change in trafficking laws that were only applicable to the sex industry to a much broader interpretation, such as change from "sexual servitude" to 'servitude' and "deceptive recruitment in the sex industry" to 'deceptive recruitment'. This change has also been borne out in the policy and practices in relation to trafficking with the most recent Australian Trafficking in Persons Report showing in 2015-16 investigations and prosecutions for sex work being far exceeded by investigations for other forms of trafficking such as labour trafficking and forced marriage. For the first time sex work was not the most investigated industry as part of the government's anti trafficking response, representing 39 out of the 169



Jules with SWOP NSW CEO Cameron Cox at the International Whores Day Red Umbrella Rally, Sydney 2017

AFP trafficking investigations throughout that year. This is in stark contrast to when the Migration Project was first funded when almost all AFP investigations were in the sex industry.

Sadly, a function of the project's success has been that the Federal Government is no longer funding sex work projects as part of the trafficking grants. A positive is that this also means the anti sex work projects are also no longer funded. However this has left a huge gap in the crucial work of the Migration Project in providing direct migration and legal information and support to migrant sex workers, our partnership with Empower Foundation and our important work in supporting the capacity of peer educators in delivering services to migrant sex workers. Unfortunately this gap is not currently being filled but the Migrant Sex Worker Steering Committee remain active and we will continue to advocate and represent on migrant sex worker issues while alternative funding sources are being pursued. Scarlet Alliance remain grateful for the ongoing contribution and commitment of migrant sex workers and we would like to extend our gratitude to Miya Pittaya, Polly Leung and the many other migrant sex workers who have contributed to the Migration Project throughout the last 9 years.



Jules speaking on the 'Invisible Powers' panel on sex work Medical Doctors Student Conference, Melbourne 2017



Parliamentary Friends of HIV's Launch of HIV Blueprint at Parliament House, Canberra 2017



Jules soeaking on a symposium panel at the ASHM Australasian HIV&AIDS Conference, Canberra 2017

I would also like to give thanks to the amazing contribution of Finance Officer, Jordan Holliday, Tasmanian Coordinator Jade Barker and Admin Manager/SANTAP Coordinator, Mish Pony. All three have made such significant contributions to Scarlet Alliance, far beyond what I can convey in these pages. They will continue to be a part of the sex worker family and we wish them all the best in their future endeavours. I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to Jade, Jordan and Mish for their hard work and commitment to Scarlet Alliance over the years.

The funding insecurities reported last year have continued and the capacity of Scarlet Alliance to conduct our core work continues to be challenged. Scarlet Alliance have felt the impact of reductions across staffing hours in many of our core positions. Despite this we remain committed to continuing our important work in advancing law and policy reform, advocacy, representation and challenging stigma and discrimination against sex workers. Consultation with sex workers and our member organisations has been a crucial component in guiding our advocacy and policy development. Most

recently this was demonstrated in the invaluable contribution of sex workers in the consultations for National BBV and STI Strategies and there is a list of many other examples. There has also been a continued engagement from the sex worker community with increasing numbers of sex worker engaging on our online consultations and through our social media portals.

It is this unflinching commitment and drive of sex workers throughout Australia that makes our work possible, in spite of the increasingly challenging environments. I would like to thank the many sex workers who have contributed to Scarlet Alliance over the years – from the staff and volunteers who always deliver above and beyond their roles; the Executive, Doubles, Representatives and Spokespeople who provide strong leadership and governance for the organisation; our member organisations and individual sex workers who inform and guide the work of Scarlet Alliance. All these sex workers are integral to who we are and shape Scarlet Alliance now and into the future as we strive towards social, legal, political, cultural and economic equality and justice for all sex workers.

Jules Kim
Cheif Executive Officer

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

2017 was another exciting year for the Scarlet Alliance Executive Committee. We witnessed the completion of projects and facilitated the initiation of new endeavours. Our activities, both the core work undertaken each year as well as new developments, have been guided by sex workers in Australia via consultations with Scarlet Alliance's membership.

The team at Scarlet Alliance has undergone many changes this year including turnover of staff and committee members, most notably, the loss of our elected President. The loss of Ryan's passion and commitment to Scarlet Alliance and the sex worker community was sorely felt and we thank them for their contribution to upholding sex worker rights. Ryan's transparent communication of their need to step down from such a demanding role and the willingness of others to step up, demonstrate the functionality of the Executive Committee double roles as well as Scarlet Alliance's commitment to organisational viability and accountability. The Executive Committee has worked to represent sex workers, advocate for their rights and for law reform, and to challenge stigma and discrimination.

Re-credentialing of member and associate member organisations occurs every three years as per our constitution using the Membership Audit Tool found as Appendix 4 of our constitution. Scarlet Alliance's membership is made up of funded sex worker projects and unfunded groups or networks of sex workers, as well as individual current or former sex workers. This year saw SWOP NSW credentialed as a full member organisation, where previously they have been an associate member

organisation. We congratulate SWOP NSW for their amazing work in achieving full independence as a 100% peer organisation. Three other organisations have also begun their re-credentialing process this cycle, which will continue up to and after the 2018 elections.

This year sees the end of Scarlet Alliance's current Strategic Plan (2014-17). Best practice monitoring and evaluation strengthen organisational processes and capacity. With the development of our new draft strategic plan underway consultations are being held with our membership evaluating our current strategic plan so that as an organisation we can continue to be guided by our membership. These evaluations will inform Scarlet Alliance's strategic plan and future work. Consultations have been primarily held online. Some face-to-face consultations have also been held in places where online participation is less accessible for sex workers. This allows for more democratic, inclusive engagement and consultation that enhances the capacity of more sex workers to participate in advancing our rights through the work of Scarlet Alliance. The Executive Committee would like to thank every sex worker who took the time to contribute to this important process.

Also currently under evaluation is individual membership, which was introduced in 2007. In 2012 the membership voted through changes to the constitution that were intended to increase the diversity and representation of the sex work community within the organisation, and increase democratic systems for representation and the inclusion of sex worker issues in our work. The evaluation of individual



Scarlet Alliance staff, executives, spokespersons and representatives at the AFAO orientation, December 2016

membership is intended to provide important feedback for the community about the value and accessibility of individual membership and has been conducted via an online survey distributed to the membership.

Regrettably, 2017 saw the end of the Migration Project funding through the Attorney General's Department. However, as our five-year vision for 2014-2019 emphasises, we will continue to provide a safer space that is accessible by all sex workers, especially those who are part of diverse communities who face additional stigma and discrimination. Scarlet Alliance will continue to actively work for the right of all sex workers to optimal occupational health and safety provisions, and to promote conditions where information is shared, enabling safer work practices. The successful sharing of information throughout our community requires translated and culturally appropriate resources (that require funding). To ensure that Scarlet Alliance remains representative of all sex workers in Australia and can advocate effectively and inclusively Scarlet Alliance will continue to challenge this loss of funding and lobby for its reinstatement.

In response to the consultation held at last year's National Forum, Scarlet Alliance has designed an online, interactive new format for the Red Book, allowing for easy updating and enabling greater functionality. Further

consultations with sex workers will continue, ensuring that the Red Book remains a current resource that disseminates key industry information to the sex worker community, by and for sex workers. Recently presented to our community is an exciting opportunity for partnership research with the Centre for Social Research in Health, UNSW. This has been an incredibly positive partnership exploring stigma towards sex workers in Australia. After the successful completion of Stage 1. Focus groups with sex workers throughout the states and territories have led to the funding of a broader Stage 2. National survey on stigma.

Scarlet Alliance works to ensure our status as a leader and expert of sex worker policy and programming and to actively seek to challenge stigma and discrimination faced by sex workers. We do this through participation in panels, submission writing, lobbying and law reform, and through a proactive and reactive media presence. Our submission to the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade's inquiry into establishing a Modern Day Slavery Act in Australia argued that such an act was unnecessary, and we thank our members and associate members who signed onto our submission for their support. Earlier this year, Queenie spoke on the panel of 'Sex Work, Solidarity & Justice' at the University of Technology in Sydney, exploring the intersection of sex worker rights and the NSW decriminalisation model. Ryan and Jules attended a Darwin screening of 'Scarlet Road' organised by SWOP NT and their Sex Worker Advisory Group, as well as being present at World AIDS Day in Canberra. On the media front, few of us remain unaware of Jane Champion's 'Top of the Lake' and its caricature portrayal of our own CEO, seemingly as retaliation for Scarlet Alliance's disapproval of Top of the Lake's use of tired tropes and deceptive 'research' methods. We were signatory to: the National Women Living with HIV Symposium – Consensus Statement; a joint media release with AIVL calling out the drug testing of



Tilly Lawless, Executive member Queenie Bon Bon, CEO Jules Kim and SWOP NSW CEO Cam Cox at the 'Sex Work, Solidarity & Justice' panel at the University of Technology Sydney, May 2017

Newstart recipients; a joint statement in support for a medically supervised injecting room in Victoria with the Victorian AIDS Council, Victorian Alcohol & Drug Association, Harm Reduction Victoria, the Australasian Professional Society on Alcohol and other Drugs, Living Positive Victoria, and High Alert; and supported the bid of the Harm Reduction Australia Board to co-host the 2019 Harm Reduction International Conference. Scarlet Alliance continues to support our member organisations during times of law reform, and this year we supported SIN in South Australia, with over 100 organisations endorsing our letter urging lower house MPs to vote for the Statutes Amendment (Decriminalisation of Sex Work) Bill 2015, and lobbying alongside SWOP NSW against the Public Health Act amendments.

As leaders and experts on sex worker policy and programming we negotiated and facilitated a sex worker only focus group

for the national consultation on BBV & STI strategies conducted by the Commonwealth Department of Health. Scarlet Alliance plays an active role in Australia's response to HIV and seeks to challenge and ameliorate government policies and strategies that impact sex workers. Sex workers are identified as a key population in four of the five national BBV & STI strategies. Scarlet Alliance negotiated an additional sex worker only focus group as part of the consultation to ensure the needs of sex workers were heard.

Scarlet Alliance ensures organisational health and sustainability through succession planning and valuing all contributions. We would like to thank Ryan again for their continued support as well as the staff at Scarlet Alliance for all their hard work, passion and dedication. We thank all sex workers in Australia and our membership for their support this year.

GOVERNANCE, LEADERSHIP & REPRESENTATION

Australian
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Alliance

LEADERSHIP & REPRESENTATION

Scarlet Alliance presented on issues affecting sex workers and represented sex worker communities throughout the year. Below are some examples.



CEO Jules Kim at a Red Umbrella Rally during the AIDS2016 Conference in Durban, South Africa

- AIDS 2016 full scholarship received and invited speaker at 5 sessions including:
 - Beyond Blame: A Feminist Dialogue on Criminalisation of HIV Transmission, Exposure and Non-disclosure
 - Interactive discussion: HIV criminalization in a context of power dynamics and violence against women
 - Sex Worker Rights: Work, Not Crime
 - Perspectives from sex workers from the Asia-Pacific: Flawed laws and social mores - how we work around and under them, and our advocacy to change them
 - Sex work and feminism

and abstracts accepted for 3 poster presentations:

- Presenting the evidence - 20 years of Decriminalisation in Australia
- Migrant Sex Workers in Australia
- Scarlet Alliance National Training and Assessment Program Diploma in Community Development: providing a nationally consistent, best practice approach to peer education for sex workers
- Centre for Social Research in Health 2017 Annual Report of Trends in Behaviours Stigma Advisory Committee

- 2017 Annual Surveillance Reports HIV Cascades Reference Group
- 2017 Annual Surveillance Reports STI Cascades Reference Group
- NSW HIV Data Report: Expert Working Group meeting (August 2016)
- MACBBVS PrEP Working Group
- Macquarie University Law Society Social Justice Speaker Night – Liberty and the Law (September 2016)
- Migration Project scholarships for the Just Ice Camp Empower Thailand (September 2016)
- Drafting Group of the BBVSS National Guidelines for the Management of People with HIV Who’s Behaviours Place Others at Risk
- Kirby Institute Annual Surveillance Report Advisory Committee
- AFAO National Policy Officers Network
- National Roundtable on Human Trafficking and Slavery
- Reclaim the Night (October 2016)



Migration Project Officer Polly speaking at Reclaim the Night

- Senior Officials Meeting of the National Roundtable on Human Trafficking
- Ministerial Advisory Committee on Blood Borne Viruses and Sexually Transmitted Infections
- Blood Borne Viruses and Sexually Transmitted Infections Standing Committee
- Labour Exploitation Working Group of the National Roundtable on Human Trafficking
- Kirby Institute Symposium, Health research for development: How can we do it better? (November 2016)



Jules speaking on a panel at the Kirby Institute Symposium

- NAPWHA Members Meeting 'Scarlet Alliance, Peer Peak Body for Sex Workers' (November 2016)
- AFAO Members Meeting 'Sex Worker Rights are Human Rights' Panel – 'Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Responses to HIV' (November 2016)
- 2016 Ministerial-level National Roundtable on Human Trafficking and Slavery (November 2016)
- Special Rapporteur on Migrants – NGO meeting on migrants (November 2016)
- ASHM Australasian HIV Conference Symposium Speaker 'Changing Funding Landscapes Regional and Domestic Responses' (November 2016)
- Australasian HIV Conference AFAO Community and Hub 'Criminalisation of HIV and Sex Work' (November 2016)
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander HIV Awareness Week (November 2016)

- World AIDS Day Parliamentary Breakfast, Canberra (December 2016)
- Stigma Indicators Advisory Committee
- AFAO Self Testing Forum Panel – 'Self Testing for Sex Workers' (February 2017)
- SWOP NT 'Anti-Trafficking vs. Migrant Sex Workers' (March 2017)
- Screening of 'Scarlet Road' and sex worker Q&A panel with the NT Anti-discrimination Commissioner', Darwin (March 2017)
- Lectures – 'Safety, Health, Rights of Sex Workers: From Australia and the American movement' Osaka University and Tokyo University, Japan (March 2017)
- Q-Life Webinar for phone counsellors on LGBTI sex workers (March 2017)
- Submission on systemic barriers and stigma and discrimination experienced by sex workers in accessing health services for hepatitis B, hepatitis C and/or HIV prevention, care or treatment
- ACCESS Advisory Committee Meeting (April 2017)
- United Nations Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights Expert Consultation on the Overreach of Criminal Laws, Geneva (April 2017)
- UNSW and USYD Women's Collectives Panel on sex worker rights (May 2017)
- Select Committee on Human Trafficking in NSW Hearing Testimony, Parliament House of New South Wales (May 2017)
- Roundtable with the UK Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner (May 2017)



International Whores Day Red Umbrella Rally, Sydney 2017

- UN-ACT and Mahidol University 'International Seminar on Mixed Migration in Southeast and East Asia' Panel Chair, Thailand (June 2017)
- Medical Doctors Student Conference (MDSC), Melbourne. 'Invisible Powers' Panel on sex work (June 2017)
- Setting the Agenda: Labor's National Conversation on Gender Equity, 'Women in Conversation' discussion (June 2017)



Kali & Mish at Women in Conversation: Setting the Agenda

- National Women's Symposium on HIV & Policy (July 2017)
- Modern Slavery Act Hearing Testimony, Parliament House Canberra (July 2017)
- Living Positive Victoria, Vixen, VAC and Scarlet Alliance Policy Position Paper: Reform of the Sex Work Act 1994 (Vic)
- Parliamentary Friends of HIV Presentation Parliament House, Canberra (August 2017)
- Evidence for Equity: Multicultural Women's Health Conference (August 2017)
- USU Radical Sex and Consent Week. Panel – 'Sex Work & Solidarity, University of Technology Sydney (August 2017)
- AMSA Global Health Conference, Adelaide. Panel on the secularisation of sex work (August 2017)
- Crimes (Invasion of Privacy) Amendment Bill 2017 – criminalising technology-facilitated abuse in the act
- UNAIDS Roundtable Discussion (September 2017)
- NSW WH&S Guidelines for Sex Service Premises



- Reclaim the Night (October 2017)
- Submission to Inquiry into Establishing a Modern Slavery Act in Australia
- Submission to Legislative Council Select Committee on Human Trafficking in NSW
- ASHM HIV & AIDS and Sexual Health Conferences, Melbourne (November 2017)
 - Symposium – Who's left behind in a 'virtual elimination' of HIV?
 - Presentation – 'Implications Of HIV Self Testing on Sex Workers'
 - Poster – Implication Of PrEP On Sex Workers
 - Symposium – Getting It Right: Trans-inclusion in Clinical Care
 - Panel – HIV, Sexual Health and Trans & Gender Diverse Populations: Data Collection and Research Gaps
 - Panel – HIV Prevention for Sex Workers: Implications and Applications of New Developments
 - STI and HIV National Strategies Consultations



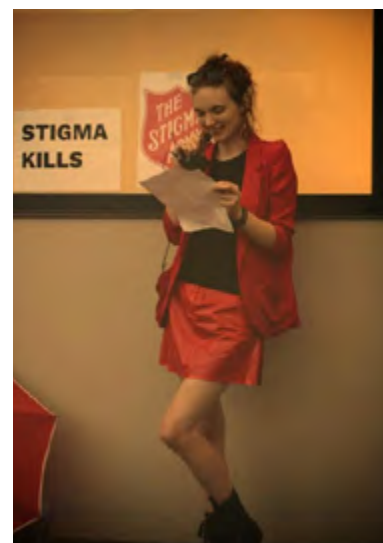
'Implications Of HIV Self Testing on Sex Workers in Australia' Presentation at ASHM HIV&AIDS Symposium

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Ryan

President

Ryan first started doing sex work in a strip club/peep show in Melbourne as a 20 year old. As a sex worker who uses drugs, she is passionate about working to dismantle whorephobia in our society, as well as other power structures that stigmatise and hold sex workers back from justice. Ryan has a Diploma of Community Development that she received through the Scarlet Alliance National Training and Assessment Program (SANTAP) and she is also a peer assessor in the SANTAP Assessors network. She has been involved on the Scarlet Alliance Executive Committee for five years now – first as a General Member Double, then Secretary and for the last 2 years as President.



Jill

Acting President / Vice President

Jill started sex working at 18 and hasn't looked back. She loved the work and community that it provided. When she found herself taking a break at home with kids, she applied for a volunteer position at RhED to stay in touch with her community. This led to her nominating for the Scarlet Alliance Executive as a double in 2015 which then led to her stepping up to the Executive Board throughout 2016 and being elected as Vice President at the 2016 AGM. Since then she has taken on a full time role at RhED and stepped into the President's role in the latter half of 2017.



Queenie

Acting Vice President / General Member

Queenie is a current sex worker who lives in Melbourne but often tours throughout Australia. She has previously worked as a stripper, in massage parlours and brothels across criminalised, legalised and decriminalised settings. This was her second year as General Member, and has really allowed her to gain a much broader understanding about how governance works and increase what she can contribute. In the last quarter, Queenie has stepped up as Vice President, and she was delighted to get to know the spokespeople and representatives better and deepen her involvement in the exec.



Maria

Treasurer

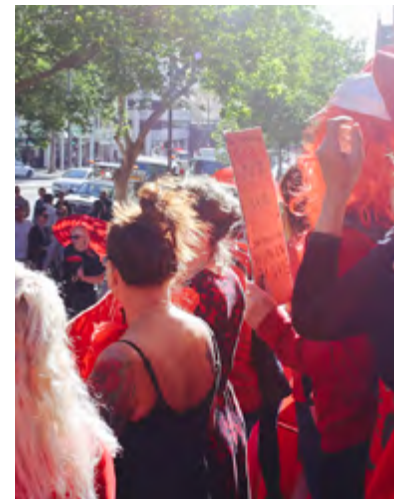
Maria is a mature worker for two shifts a week at a parlour, having also done private, escort, and street based sex work. But behind the party girl exterior, lies a fascination with ensuring financial viability and promoting best practice sex worker organising. Maria has had a long interest in seeing Scarlet Alliance continue their great track record in gaining funding for programs, having acted as Treasurer in the establishment years. Scarlet Alliance has been part of her world for half her life, she has seen our organisation take its place within the health, human rights, international development, law and justice, and research sectors.



Sarah

Secretary

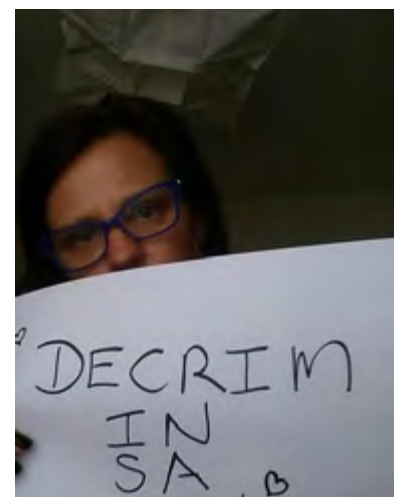
Sarah is a trans sex worker who usually works privately, but occasionally in parlours as well. She is a co-founder of SWEAR (formerly People for Sex Worker Rights WA), a Scarlet Alliance member organisation advocating for sex worker rights in Western Australia. Sarah has been involved in state-level sex worker advocacy, organisation and peer support in for a long time, and is really proud of what they have achieved in WA. After moving to Melbourne last year she is enthusiastic about getting involved with Scarlet Alliance, engaging on a national level, and getting to know workers and local issues on the east coast as well.



Elle

General Member

Elle has worked in the sex industry for the last 3 years in a variety of settings. She is currently living and working in the criminalised environment of South Australia, and is passionate about decriminalisation for all SA sex workers. At such a critical time, she is here to advocate in any way she can. Elle has brought her extensive experience in community housing organisations to the role of General Member, and looks forward to continuing to learn more about the sex worker community as part of the Scarlet Alliance Executive Committee.



REPRESENTATIVES & SPOKESPERSONS REPORTS



MALE SEX WORKER REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

During my time as the male sex worker representative for Scarlet Alliance I have learnt some valuable lessons and have had a taste of the dynamics within the sex worker activism world.

Since I entered the sex work industry it has been discussed widely that being a male sex worker has the potential to be an isolating occupation, and that in comparison to other sex worker communities we have less access to peer education and support channels that are so required in this industry. To address this, the idea of a national online forum was discussed with my role double and a proposal to run a national survey to find out if members of our community also saw the need to increase peer support networks and if so, how they would go about it.

The National Male Sex Worker Need Assessment survey was distributed and promoted with the valuable help of Scarlet's member organisations, the main online advertising sites used in Australia and other members of our community. The survey closed on 10 March 2017 and had a total of 74 respondents giving some valuable insight into what the current perceived needs were for male sex workers in Australia. As initially thought, the majority of the people who participated agreed that there was room and need for an online space to interact and support each other. Survey participants were able to fill the survey anonymously in order to gather honest opinions free from reservations. This decision paid off and we managed to get some very useful insight into why previous attempts to create similar platforms have failed to be widely accessible to all male sex workers, and other hesitations people have about engaging in this manner as well as negative experiences some people have had in the past when trying to connect with peers. This was vital information to envision the pathway



Paco speaking on the Community Perspectives Panel at the 2017 Australasian HIV & AIDS Conference, Canberra

to follow in trying to address this issue. A proposal was put together requesting to purchase a platform similar to the one used by an international, well known male sex workers forum. This platform is necessary to create a space that was both private and exclusive to sex workers, while remaining widely accessible to all male members of our community. It allows participants to share advice, resources (both in the form of links and documents), useful information and more importantly, it will be able to be promoted publicly enough to maximise exposure making it difficult for sex workers to miss, while having a secure two step verification system that allows us to ensure that it will not be used by anyone but sex workers. At this point the proposal has been given the go ahead by the executive committee and it will be implemented as soon as possible. A special thanks to SWOP NSW, Magenta and RhED for getting behind this project and actively distributing and promoting it through their channels, it is great to experience a community working together for the benefit of all.

As part of my role I have had the opportunity to represent Scarlet Alliance in a few different forums and research projects. One of these is the study 'Male Sex Workers and their Clients' funded by the Australian Research Council. This research will be conducted over a two-year period and its being guided by current male sex workers.



Paco Santana and Jules Kim with SWOP CEO and President, Cam Cox and Lara Bell at the 2016 National Forum, Adelaide

I also had the opportunity to record a webinar used for training volunteers of QLife, the national telephone and webchat support and referral service for LGBTI people. This was a good way of promoting Scarlet Alliance while addressing some misconceptions and stereotypes in our industry.

In addition I have represented male sex worker issues at AFAO forums and as a panellist on the Community Perspectives Panel Discussion at the Joint Symposium: Meanings of Safe Sex among Gay Men for the 2017 Australasian HIV & AIDS and Sexual Health Conference in Canberra.

Paco Santana
Male Sex Worker Representative

TRANS & GENDER DIVERSE REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

The Trans and Gender Diverse Representative aims to represent the Scarlet Alliance aims and objectives and issues for trans and gender diverse sex workers both within the sex worker rights movement (including Scarlet Alliance and other sex worker organisations) and more broadly.

The Trans and Gender Diverse Representative and double represent Scarlet Alliance at conferences, workshops and forums, write abstracts, articles and speeches for conferences and publications, convene working parties around relevant issues, conduct delegated media interviews and other media roles when delegated/approved by the Scarlet Alliance Executive, maintains a Trans and Gender Diverse Sex Worker Google group, provide updates and changes on trans and gender diverse sex worker issues to the Scarlet List and maintains the trans@scarletalliance.org.au email account.



Trans & Gender Diverse Rep Mish Pony speaking at the protest against the Daily Telegraph in Sydney, July 2017

The position was sadly vacant for the 2015-16 period so one of my focusses was to re-invigorate the position and establish relationships with other organisations and key people. Key activities for this year were:

- Sent an introduction email to Australian sex worker organisations and relevant HIV and LGBTIQ organisation, introducing myself and the role and offering support and advice (December 2016).
- Created a Google group to consult with trans and gender diverse sex workers (assigned male at birth) from around Australia (December 2016).



Mish at SWASH, Japan for presentations on the impact of Australian sex work laws, the work of Scarlet Alliance and our regional partners, and the diversity of the Australian sex industry, March 2017

- Met with the CEO and deputy CEO of AFAO to discuss the lack of visibility and inclusion of trans women in the Australian HIV response (December 2016).
- Radio interview on FBi Radio 'Backchat' with the AFAO deputy CEO in December focusing on PrEP and issues for trans women and sex workers (December 2016).
- Hosted by SWASH, Japan to present in Osaka and Tokyo on sex work laws and their impact on sex workers around Australia, the work of Scarlet Alliance in Australia and our partners in the region, and the diversity of the Australian sex industry including LGBTQ and migrant sex workers (March 2017).
- Facilitated a workshop titled 'Are trans women being left behind?' at the LBQ Women's Health Conference in Sydney. This conversation focused on the lack of services and resources for trans women in Australia, including a lack of targeted HIV programs for trans women (July 2017).
- Spoke at a rally at the Daily Telegraph offices in Sydney against their continued attacks on LGBTIQ people and sex workers (July 2017).

- Provided input and feedback into ACON's upcoming policy on 'Effective and Meaningful Inclusion of Trans or Gender Diverse People in the NSW HIV Response' (February and July 2017).
- Presented on sex work and queer communities for a QLife Webinar with the male representative, then-president Ryan Cole and CEO Jules Kim (March 2017).
- Invited to present on a trans inclusive clinical care panel at ASHM in Sydney (November 2017).

At the 2016 National Forum a motion was passed for me to conduct a consultation for trans and gender diverse sex workers from around Australia on how non-binary assigned female at birth sex workers should be more fully included and represented within Scarlet Alliance. At the moment the online survey is still open and the results will be presented at the 2017 National Forum.

Going forward I look forward to strengthening the role and positioning it as a key player in the Australian HIV response and trans health more broadly.

Mish Pony

Trans & Gender Diverse Representative

INTERNATIONAL SPOKESPERSON REPORT

I am Tori, the 2017 International Spokesperson for Scarlet Alliance and together, with Eva, the International Spokesperson Double, we have had such amazing experiences representing Australian sex workers this year. In addition to keeping the Scarlet Alliance membership up to date with sex worker news, events and opportunities via the Scarlet e-list and keeping up with the regional and global networks of sex workers through the Asia Pacific Network of Sex Workers (APNSW) and Global Network of Sex Work Projects (NSWP) email discussion lists, this year has brought many opportunities for us to learn, develop our capacity as advocates as well as build and strengthen connections with sex workers and sex worker groups around the globe.

Through the International Spokespersons budget we supported two sex workers to submit their films to the San Francisco Sex Worker Film and Arts Festival. Both were accepted and one other Australian sex worker film was sought out by the festival organisers, who we were able to connect them with. Eva attended the Sex Worker Film and Arts Festival in San Francisco in May, meeting an incredible community of sex workers in the Bay Area at the various festival activities.



Tori presenting 'Sex Industry Regulation, Sex Worker Health & STI/HIV Prevention' at STI & HIV World Congress, Brazil

Sex workers participated in drama and story-telling workshops and performances, communicating their experiences of both joy and stigma in sex work via dance, poetry and theatre. At the bi-annual Whore's Bath event, sex worker professionals in therapeutic fields worked on their peers and shared their knowledge with the community in an inspiring, healing afternoon full of love for their fellow workers and our role as healers. The challenges sex workers have faced recently in California were highlighted during the film festival with discussions of Prop 60 and the use of 'no human involved' procedures where sex workers have been victims of violent crime. The Australian film submissions were very well received, especially our humour and descriptions of working under decriminalisation.

In May, Tori visited Project X in Singapore for the second year in a row. This year's visit was brief as the visit fell on the week of the celebration of Vesak. Together with Joanna from SWOP NSW we visited Project X at their booth at the Green is the New Black Festival. Vanessa had lots to share about all the developments at Project X and we got to meet a few new volunteers as well.

A few weeks later Eva visited PACE, a front line sex worker organisation in downtown Vancouver. Canada has recently been placed under the brutal thumb of the Swedish

Model and while sex worker organisations there receive government funding and some support, the change in laws has been a difficult blow to the community, especially after the optimism following the successful Bedford constitutional challenge by sex workers in Canada. PACE has recently implemented a career transition program as part of a Canada wide scheme that brings together multiple organisations to support sex workers who want to leave sex work within a rights-focused, sex work positive framework. Most striking about PACE was their close knit relationships with other front-line organisations and the apparent support and collaboration they have achieved in the downtown community.

Together Tori and Eva submitted two abstracts for the STI & HIV World Congress in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, one of which, 'Sex Industry Regulation, Sex Worker Health and STI/HIV Prevention', was accepted for an oral presentation. Tori attended the conference and gave the presentation. It was well received; many local medical students and representatives from the Brazilian Ministry of Health were very interested in the lived experiences of Australian sex workers.

The conference was an opportunity to network and share, mainly with researchers and doctors, but also some government officials, about the challenges licensing and criminalisation frameworks create for sex workers as well as the important successes of decriminalisation. Tori had an in-depth discussion with a person from the Ministry of Health whose main work involved how they support sex workers, what kinds of projects they run, what they do to support sex workers and what other government sectors such as the Ministry of Labour are doing.

During the visit to Rio, Tori was hosted by Laura Murray, the creator of the film a 'Um Beijo para Gabriela (A Kiss for Gabriela)' who she'd met at the previous year's AIDS Conference. Laura, along with Thaddeus Blanchet and his partner Anna Paula (one

of the Presidents of Davida) organised a panel discussion about Sex Work Laws and Sex Workers' Experiences in Australia and Brazil hosted at Casa Nem, a trans, mainly sex worker, squat. Tori spoke alongside Indianara, a prominent trans sex worker activist. The discussion was moderated by an influential feminist scholar and was well attended by sex workers and allies. Both Scarlet Alliance as an organisation and what sex working is like in the various jurisdictions in Australia was discussed.



Tori at the 'Sex Work Laws and Sex Workers' Experiences of Regulation in Australia and Brazil' discussion at Casa Nem

Laura and Thaddeus, who along with Anna Paula, have mapped Rio's Red Light Districts and Brothels, also took Tori around to a couple of the working areas and explained the different places and ways sex work takes place in Rio.

For the third year running we have been invited to present to the Master of Sexology students at Curtin University. This year Eva presented to the class discussing sex work in an Australian context, focusing on the various legal frameworks and the value and success of decriminalisation as well as outlining the important work of Scarlet Alliance.

Carrying on from the 2015 and 2016 International Spokespersons, we've updated the international conference list to keep the membership informed about key dates for conferences relevant to sex workers.

Tori
International Spokesperson



**KEY
PROJECT
ACTIVITIES**

POLICY PROJECT

As Scarlet Alliance won the Commonwealth tender to develop online sexual health resources for sex workers, this year was largely dedicated to the development of the next Sexually Transmissible Infection (STI) and Blood Borne Virus (BBV) Handbook for sex workers, also known as the Redbook. To remain true to the community development roots of the Redbook and capture the perspectives of sex workers across Australia in various workplace types, we conducted a number of consultations, such as at the National Forum, with the sex worker steering committee, and through online surveys. We are in the process of developing ongoing consultation strategies that allow sex workers to input into the Redbook on an ongoing basis to continue the Redbook's tradition of community engagement and stay up-to-date with the changing sex work and health environment. We hope to launch this exciting new project in the coming months.

In the policy department, it has been an equally busy and exciting year. Scarlet Alliance submitted into a number of inquiries affecting sex workers, such as inquiries into trafficking, labour exploitation, and invasion of privacy. We attended numerous parliamentary hearings to provide evidence, with more coming up. We reviewed and updated key documents affecting sex workers, such as the Work Health and Safety (WHS) guidelines, a document that is instrumental to decriminalisation in NSW. We also provided feedback to the Final Report of the National Labour Exploitation working group.

In the sexual health space, I, alongside Scarlet Alliance representatives, advocated for sex workers in debates on HIV self-testing, PrEP and PEP, and STI and BBV research. I continued Scarlet Alliance's representative role at the AFAO National Policy Officers Network. We also advocated for sex workers in the Blood Borne Viruses and Sexually Transmissible Infections Standing Committee (BBVSS) to ensure STI and BBV



Policy Officer Kali speaking at the 2017 Australasian HIV & AIDS Conference, Canberra

policy continues to employ best practice frameworks to protect the health and human rights of sex workers.

I attended numerous events to ensure that sex worker perspectives were included in a broad range of debates, such as in debates about gender equality and violence against women. Additionally, in solidarity with sex workers worldwide we attended the International Whores Day that was organised together with SWOP NSW.

As part of our role as the national sex worker peak body, Scarlet Alliance provided crucial policy support to our state and territory sex worker organisations, such as in developing policy briefs and submissions into local and federal inquiries. I also participated in, reviewed and provided feedback to new sex work research.

The coming year will, no doubt, be just as busy and exciting. With a little more experience under my belt, I look forward to submitting into more inquiries to ensure sex workers continue to be represented and included in a broad range of issues. We will be conducting more Redbook consultations to ensure this resource continues to reflect the needs of sex workers. I look forward to another year of advocating for the rights of sex workers in Australia and internationally.

COMMUNICATIONS PROJECT

Funding from the Commonwealth Department of Health to bring the Red Book Online has been a big step in increasing accessibility of this popular resource.

Along with these new digital resources, we have updated key materials and maintained existing communication channels through mailing lists and continuing the production of the E-Newsletter and Scarlet Letters. The National Forum has also been as valuable as ever for consultation and evaluation, and we have continued to coordinate the event in order to sustain and strengthen the relationship with our growing membership.

National Forum, Adelaide 2016

The Scarlet Alliance National Forum is an important and unique opportunity for sex workers to come together annually for consultations and discuss emerging trends and key issues for sex workers around Australia.

The 2016 National Forum held on Kaurna Country in Adelaide was a huge success! We had 89 attendees over three days in November including sex worker peer educators, individual sex workers and representatives from sex worker organisations from all over Australia.



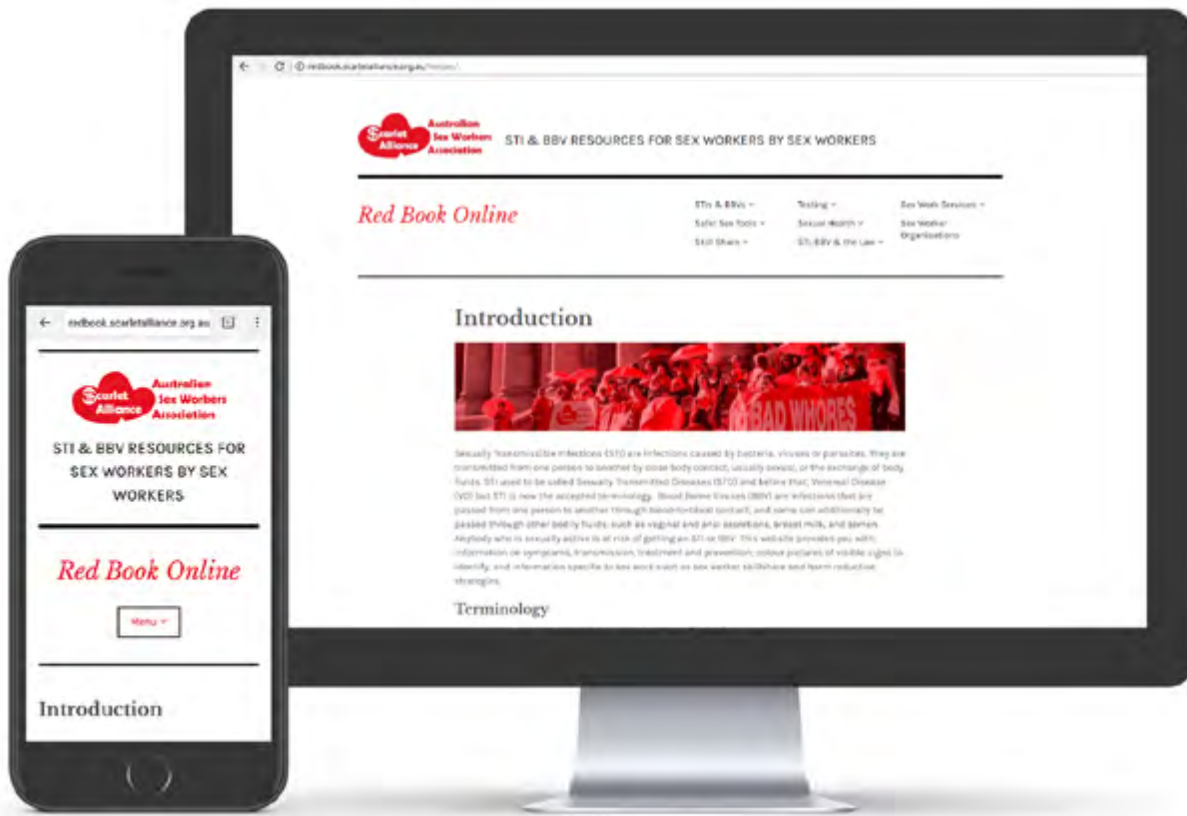
Red Umbrella Rally for the decriminalisation of sex work at Parliament House of South Australia, Adelaide 2016

There was also a huge turnout at Parliament House for the Red Umbrella Rally in support of decriminalisation of sex work in South Australia.

Highlights included various panels and knowledge-sharing workshops on a variety of topics including media training, law reform, peer education skill share, sex work and drug use stigma, improving accessibility for sex workers with disabilities, CALD and migrant sex workers, trans sex workers, the diversity of sex work and sex workers. A forum evaluation report was produced for executive committee to inform future forum planning.



2016 Scarlet Alliance National Forum, Adelaide



Mobile and desktop screenshots of a working version Red Book Online site, 2017

Red Book Online

The major project this year was working in collaboration with the Policy Project and in consultation with our membership to update the Redbook STI and BBV Resources By and For Sex Workers and bringing them online. Lack of funding has meant over the last few years, supply of the printed STI Handbook has not been able to keep up with the demand for this popular resource.

New project-based funding for web-based resources has enabled the development Red Book Online. The existing resource has been updated and built upon by the Policy Project in consultation with our membership, while the Communications Project focused on mobile-responsive web development for the new digital resource. The Red Book online is tailored specifically by and for sex workers after undergoing multiple consultations and evaluations.



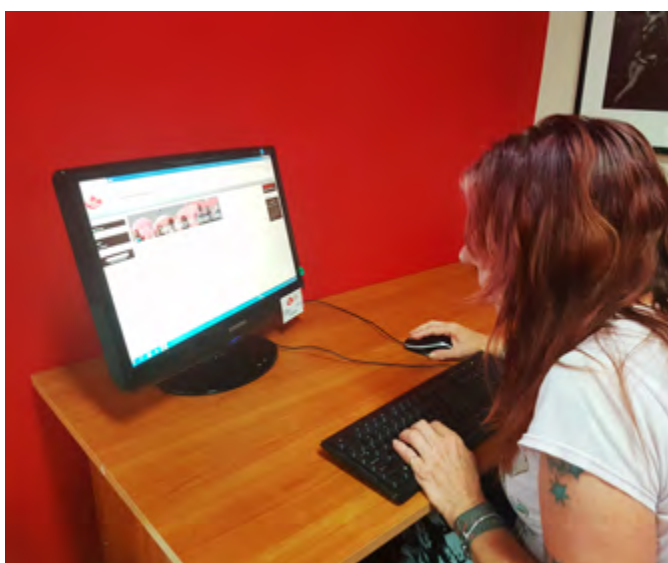
Promotion Strategy

Promotional material including postcards and posters for the new online resource was also developed and will be distributed to member organisations and relevant health services. The new web-based resource will also be shared with our membership and wider community through existing avenues including as social media, mailing lists, member organisation publications and the National Forum.

SANTAP PROJECT

The Scarlet Alliance National Training and Assessment Program (SANTAP) is made up of an online training program for new and existing sex worker peer educators, and an assessment program for sex worker peer educators with at least 12 months experience in order to obtain a Diploma of Community Development. Each of the components of the program are designed and delivered by sex workers.

The online training program comprises of eight in-depth learning modules with a range of materials and resources, as well as accompanying activities that are submitted for marking and feedback by a peer. Upon completion of the activities, participants receive an official certificate of completion from Scarlet Alliance. The online training is available in English, Thai and Simplified Chinese, with Korean on the way. This year has seen the online training program revamped for ease of use with a simpler, more streamlined interface, with additional resources added to further support the learning and activity modules. We will now look at increasing the diversity of available activities to make the program better suited to a range of learning styles.



Peer educator training student at the Scarlet Alliance office, 2017



Josie and Tori receiving diplomas at National Forum, 2016

The assessment program is for sex worker peer educators with at least 12 months experience, and pairs them with a peer assessor who guides the peer educator through a recognition of prior learning assessment to deliver a nationally recognised Diploma of Community Development. This process examines the skills and work practices of a peer educator, and aligns them with the required criteria from the diploma units. This in-depth examination recognises that peer education is a highly skilled activity, and that in our work peer educators meet the requirements for the Diploma of Community Development. There are currently 8 peer educators enrolled in the assessment program.

We take enrolments for both the Scarlet Alliance Diploma of Community Development and the Peer Educator Training Online throughout the year, and both can be done at your own pace. Whether you are an experienced peer educator or a sex worker who has been thinking about getting into peer education, SANTAP has the course for you! Contact the SANTAP coordinator at santap@scarletalliance.org.au or visit <http://www.scarletalliance.org.au/SANTAP/> to find out more.



SANTAP Coordinator Mish giving a presentation on the SANTAP Project at the National Forum, Adelaide 2016

As we know sex worker peer education has been central to the successful HIV and STI response in Australia and the value and effectiveness of peer education for sex workers is widely recognised as best practice, including by the UN and the Australian Government. SANTAP continues with our aim to increase the workforce development of, and number of, trained and qualified sex worker peer educators in Australia as well as to recognise and validate the complex skills, expertise and knowledge involved in sex worker peer education.

SANTAP has also been internationally showcased and recognised as providing a nationally consistent, best practice approach to peer education for sex workers – including having a poster (<http://programme.aids2016.org/Abstract/Abstract/9521>) accepted at AIDS 2016 in South Africa and a feature article on the APNSW website at <https://apnsw.info/2016/12/01/resourced-and-organised-achieving-formal-recognition-of-sex-workers-skills-in-australia/>.



HOME ABOUT APNSW MEMBERSHIP COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Resourced and organised: achieving formal recognition of sex workers' skills in Australia

Posted on 2016-12-01

Over the past 15 years, Scarlet Alliance, the Australian Sex Worker Association, has developed and implemented an exciting and innovative national project that recognises the unique skills sex workers use while engaging in peer education within our communities and workspaces.

The Scarlet Alliance National Training and Assessment Program (SANTAP) contains both a learning tool and an assessment framework. The learning tool provides new or existing sex worker peer educators the required knowledge and grounding; and the assessment framework offers sex workers the opportunity to have our peer education and community mobilisation skills formally recognised. On completion of the multi-module assessment process, participants are awarded a nationally recognised diploma.

Graduates of the Scarlet Alliance National Training and Assessment Program

SANTAP feature article on the APNSW website, 2016

TASMANIAN PROJECT

Ending our funding arrangements with the Tasmanian Department of Health and Human Services, beginning a short arrangement with the Department of Premier and Cabinet and successfully starting a formal funding relationship with the Tasmanian Attorney General, all in the space of twelve months has meant the Tasmanian Sex Worker Project has been through a period of much change.

A shift in focus from Health to Justice has resulted in the Project Staff concentrating on the ways in which Tasmanian sex workers face social exclusion, while still maintaining our important community engagement and outreach work. We have worked with other organisations and government agencies to create policy that endeavours to overcome the barriers to inclusion that sex workers face daily.

While continuing to build on the work of previous years, the Project has also successfully adapted to meet the objectives of the new funding agreement, building on successes while working to improve access to justice for sex workers in Tasmania.

There is no doubt that Tasmanian Sex Worker Project has cemented its place within the Tasmanian community as leaders in contributing to the betterment of social justice for Tasmanians. Most importantly, the Project can confidently assert that Tasmanian sex workers are more engaged with one another and regardless of funding, the relationships built will continue to grow.



Tasmanian Project Coordinator Jade Barker with (from top to bottom): Greens Member of the Tasmanian Parliament, Dr Rosalie Woodruff; Prime Minister, Malcolm Turnbull; Human Rights Commissioner, Edward Santow and former NAPWA President, Robert Mitchell

Over the last 12 months there have been a number of successes and challenges for the Tasmanian Sex Worker Project's outreach program.

Successes

- There has been an increase in sex workers reporting crimes, including an increase in people reporting to the Project that their case was handled appropriately. We continue to work with police and sex workers to ensure the barriers to reporting crimes are diminished.
- The Project has worked with the Equal Opportunities Commission to inform sex workers about our rights under the Anti-discrimination Act. This has resulted in more sex workers speaking up and receiving support regarding illegal discrimination, particularly incidences that put people at high risk of homelessness and violence.
- Community building has continued to flourish, with programs run by the Project including a peer reference group, social networking activities, skill sharing programs and the development of more online resources.
- The response from sex workers during the funding changes has been overwhelming and the community consultation has strengthened the Project's ability to work with the community in meaningful ways.
- Services provided to people from non English speaking backgrounds is increasing, and the Project has made progress in addressing the barriers to CALD access.
- The peer education and outreach worker has attended workshops and training which have been beneficial to the community.



Tasmanian sex workers joined hundreds of people for the annual Winter Solstice Naked Swim – a wonderful example of how adventurous Tasmanian sex workers are!

Challenges

- Providing services to whole of state with limited resources
- Addressing barriers to CALD clients accessing services and justice.
- The most marginalised and vulnerable groups of sex workers are also the most highly criminalised and therefore face greater restrictions to accessing safe, fair working conditions.
- The stigmatisation of sex workers in the media and in general is still impacting on the rights, safety and wellbeing of sex workers, making peer outreach both more challenging and more required
- Increased reports by sex workers being threatened, abused and made to feel unsafe by people from anti sex work organisations.

The outreach program continues to address the challenges it faces including the lack of resources to service a whole state and working within a legal system where the most at risk people have the least access to justice.

MIGRATION PROJECT

Much of the work the Migration Project has undertaken provides a rationale to ensure migrant sex workers are involved in policies, representation and research about us. We challenge models of anti-trafficking by working to decrease trafficking vulnerabilities, using practical solutions to address labour migration issues for the migrant sex worker community. The important contributions have been made to the evidence based policy on anti-trafficking issues to ensure the development of evidence based anti-human trafficking policy that does not impact negatively on sex worker communities. Our work in advocacy and in promoting the recognition of migrant sex worker rights have brought up a growing movement at a policy and practical level across Australia.

The Project was formally first funded in 2009 to enhance the capacity of sex worker peer educators in Australia to provide support to migrant sex workers. Sadly, the proposed cuts to funding from the Attorney-General's Department are bad news for our community because they have forced the only Project that is funded to provide culturally appropriate direct and indirect support to migrant sex workers on migration and legal issues to an end. This has also undermined sex industry and created a gap that is unlikely to be filled by other projects or mechanisms.

While the Migration Project faced cuts, our representations have yet been occurring in numerous forums nationally and internationally. These included doing moderating at the International Seminar on Mixed Migration in Southeast and East Asia which is hosted by United Nations Action for Cooperation against Trafficking in Persons (UN-ACT) at Mahidol University International College in Thailand. The Project had an invaluable opportunity to increase understanding of sex work and created an



Migration Project Manager Miya speaking at the

interest for migrant sex workers among the participants from Japan, Hong Kong, Cambodia, USA, Singapore, Indonesia, Austria, Greece, UK, Australia and Thailand. The Project has played an important part by ensuring the representation of sex workers involved in trafficking discourse and policy development, therefore raising awareness and bringing attention to the important question of migrant sex workers and trafficking, which had up to then, been insufficiently addressed in multi-sector panels. A concern of how to deal with the issue of exploitation in the sex industry, without violating the rights of sex workers in general and denying sex workers' right to work, had been raised at the side event because the discussions and solutions proposed when it comes to dealing with issues of workplace exploitation in the sex industry are very different to how other occupations are approached and often conceived of as a form of sex trafficking not as a violation of labour rights.

The representation in Japan at Osaka University and Tokyo University included information how decriminalisation assists victims of trafficking to be identified and supported as well as how clear and



The Scarlet Alliance Migration Project Steering Committee, 2016

accessible migration pathways can reduce chances for exploitation. The Project and our steering committee have been involved in a number of different research projects to ensure that translations and questions are culturally appropriate and relevant and that the ways in which privacy and de-identification is managed and how information is used are ethical. The Project and our steering committee were also involved as participants in other research focusing on stigma to ensure the experiences of migrant sex workers were adequately represented. The Project also represented migrant sex workers experiences and perspectives in media and through attendance at public events such as International Whores' Day rallies.

To support the work of CALD peer educators around Australia in delivering culturally appropriate services to migrant sex workers, a range of activities such as support in the production of resources, peer translation checking, interpreting support, providing access to current information, and appropriate referrals were provided. All workshop, training and information sessions the Project provided to CALD peer educators have involved the important contribution of migrant sex workers to guide our work and to enhance CALD peer educators' capacity in peer education and outreach services. We also work towards the gaps,

opportunities, and priorities in trafficking prevention to support peer educators and migrant sex workers as well as implement anti-trafficking efforts that affirm the rights of sex workers. The environment of peer education, supporting and sharing information has successfully promoted learning and developing knowledge and skills in ways to deal with these complex issues and work more effectively within our community. Our ongoing peer-based support with migration issues, migration rights and responsibilities, health and safety in the workplace, referral, advice and information on laws, as well as services and access to justice has provided directly to the requirements of migrant sex workers. Moreover, our peer to peer supervision equips an effective forum in which to increase CALD peer educator skills and engage in reciprocal support in challenging work settings, a solid base of knowledge on theories old and new and a working knowledge of the industry. The project has also facilitated a workshop on Supporting Migrant Sex Workers to Advocate at Scarlet Alliance National Forum 2016, in Adelaide. This workshop presented peer feedback reflecting migrant sex workers' experiences from different cultural backgrounds on barriers and enablers to accessing sex worker organisations and engagement on personal and systemic advocacy.



Informal education centre at Empower, Thailand 2017

Partnership with Empower Thailand

The Project partnership between Scarlet Alliance and Empower Foundation in Thailand has continued to grow and to support the understanding about migration and legal rights and responsibilities for sex workers in Thailand. Empower and the Migration Project worked to fill the significant need for reliable information and referrals for sex workers considering travelling to work in Australia. Empower reported that since the Project began women now are much better informed about the processes of migration, specifically to learn about work opportunities and to verify information given by recruitment agencies including their rights and responsibilities. The ability for migrant sex workers to migrate independently is a vital key to preventing vulnerabilities to exploitation and labour abuses, including but not only trafficking.

Steering Committee meeting

The volume of positive peer support and the work the project provided has arisen via our regular consultations with our Steering Committee and peer sex worker organisations. The successful set of interactions and engagements of our Steering Committee members who are past or present sex workers of Thai, Chinese and Korean language backgrounds have been maintained throughout the duration of the Project. Feedback of Steering Committee

members, especially their valuable experiences, are the greatest resources of the Project. Every interaction ensures the valuable information and guidance for the project, and that capacity within the migrant sex worker community is built.

Steering Committee members were also supported to build personal resilience within the community to increase and to improve willingness to engage with support through increased knowledge of available support for migrant sex workers. This also included the culturally appropriate information especially on legal and migration information, and the improvement of accessibility to information and support including culturally appropriate referrals and linkages to sex worker organisations for ongoing support.

The Steering Committee provided invaluable feedback and input into our important consultation on government inquiries into human trafficking, guidance into the government's proposed Human Trafficking Indicators and the issues in relation to the Modern Slavery Act including its impact on sex workers and the factors that increase migrant sex workers risk to exploitation.

The differences and the diversity the Steering Committee members have brought to the Project provide the strong evidence base and enhanced outcomes resulting in the Project's ability to respond and represent on the needs and current issues for migrant sex workers.

MEMBER ORGANISATION REPORTS



Australian
Sex Workers
Association

Demanding sex worker rights in Australia

**sex work
is WORK**

www.scarletalliance.org.au

**SOLICITING
FOR CHANGE**



DEBBY DOESN'T DO IT FOR FREE

National

Debby Doesn't Do It For Free (DDDIFF) is a self-funded sex worker arts & performance collective, with members spread throughout Australia.

This year we have: increased our membership; curated two sex worker art exhibitions (Melbourne and Adelaide); contributed to the sex worker movement and continued to raise the profile of sex worker issues through our social media presence (Facebook, Twitter and Instagram) as well as maintaining a private Facebook group and E-list for information sharing and decision making amongst our members.

In September 2016 we exhibited works and films in Melbourne and curated the National Forum Art Show at the Format Gallery Adelaide, in November. An open callout for sex workers to contribute attracted new works and new participants from different parts of Australia, including works from local South Australian sex workers.

We have developing images for important events on the sex worker cultural calendar this year including International Whores Day on June 2nd, provided artwork for the Scarlet Alliance Red Handbook website project and our work is to be referenced in a book on HIV and performance published by Palgrave McMillan.



Debby Doesn't Do it For Free Art Exhibition, Format Gallery, Adelaide 2016



Money Mama by Demented Debby



Loyal Birthmarked Man by Decommissioned Debby



RESPECT INC

Queensland

Respect Inc is a non-profit, peer-based organisation focused on protecting and promoting the rights, health and wellbeing of Queensland sex workers. We are a sex worker rights-positive and rights-focused community organisation. Through our funding we provide a range of services and programs aimed at addressing our community's needs, as informed by them. We recognise that historically, sex workers have successfully educated each other about workplace health and safety and in doing so, have demonstrated that peer education is the most effective way for us to improve this. We continue in this tradition, providing a peer-only safe space at all our offices and most events. Our offices are located in Cairns, Townsville, Brisbane and the Gold Coast and our staff also provide outreach to regional and remote areas throughout Queensland.

We aim to provide information about the industry, education and training, advocacy, and referrals to sex worker-friendly services. Both our Youth Program and our Career Development Program are into their third year now. The Youth Program is focusing on connecting with and supporting young people engaged in selling or trading sex. Our Career Development Program continues to provide support for workers wanting to expand their career skills both within the industry and in other areas.

In March our annual Roundtable was held in Brisbane and we held our first ever rally outside Parliament House, protesting the current legal framework and pushing for the decriminalisation of sex work in Queensland. Nothing About Us Without Us! The struggle for sex worker rights continues.



SIN

South Australia

The SIN team is well and truly settled in our new office in Mile End, located just west of the city. This year has seen us continue to spread our wings with our application for incorporation lodged and approval confirmed. Our Governance and Autonomy Group (GAAG) has been meeting regularly to keep our quest for independence moving – and we would like to sincerely thank all who have been, and continue to be, involved in the process.

For many years we've been fighting for the decriminalisation of the sex industry in South Australia. Currently we operate within a completely criminalised framework. On the 6th of July, 2017, a pure decriminalisation bill passed through the Upper House of SA parliament! This was a hard fought and much deserved victory for all involved. We are now focusing our efforts on lobbying the members of the Lower House. Watch this space and wish us luck!

In June of 2017 we appointed a second Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) project worker under a short term contract. We were able to do this thanks to a successful grant application to the Department of Communities and Social Inclusion (DCSI). Our new CALD worker is a Chinese speaker and is helping SIN explore the needs, barriers, and issues of Chinese sex workers in South Australia. We hope to produce a comprehensive needs assessment of Chinese sex workers from the information gathered by our valuable peer.

SIN continues to foster relationships with South Australian and touring sex workers. We estimate ongoing and regular connection with 25% of the states approx. 2,000 sex workers, with that figure consistently rising, thanks to the wonderful work of our team of project workers and volunteers, guided by strong and capable management.



SWEAR

Western Australia

This year has seen People for Sex Worker Rights in WA (PFSWRWA) rebrand as Sex Work; Education, Advocacy and Rights (SWEAR). SWEAR remains West Australia's only peer only organisation, with the executive committee made up entirely of current peers. Following two of our founding members leaving the committee, this year SWEAR has focused on consultation with WA sex workers, strategic planning and development of new committee members.

SWEAR continues to provide peer support and education to WA sex workers. This

includes regular sex worker only events hosted in private locations. SWEAR has also sought feedback from WA and touring sex workers on the organisation. SWEAR continues to devote significant energy into the development of the organisation and expanding the membership base. Upon the completion of the rebrand SWEAR expects the new executive committee to continue the successful work of PFSWRWA. SWEAR is also excited to resume lobbying and advocating for decriminalisation and sex worker rights in Western Australia.



SWOP ACT

Australian Capital Territory

5 years ago there was a review into the Prostitution Act in the ACT and the result from that was 17 recommendations. Recommendation 17 was a review of these changes 5 years later. The review of the changes is supposed to happen this year but as there has been no changes there can be no review. We have sat down with a person from Justice and Community Services also known as JACS and spoke with about how to get things moving again. We chose the 'easiest' items to get moved along and by easiest we mean the items that everyone had agreed on. These included changing the name of the

Prostitution Act to The Commercial Sexual Services Act (no we are not crazy about the name either) and in the Act having prostitute and prostitution changed to sex worker and sex work, that you can legally work in the ACT if you are HIV+, that operators of brothels have to supply condoms and so on for free. These are the items that most of the committee had agreed on and should be able to go through with little or no problems. When this has happened we will be tackling the bigger issues like 2 workers working from 1 premises and not having to be a registered sex worker to work privately.



SWOP NT

Northern Territory

SWOP-NT is a member of Scarlet Alliance Sex Workers Association, is located within (NTAHC) Northern Territory AIDS & Hepatitis Council, Darwin, Northern Territory as a NTAHC program and is funded for 30.4 hrs week to deliver peer services across the Territory.

SWOPs' peer led health promotion via outreach and broader programming aims to improve sex workers lives by holistic health addressing issues that includes human rights.

SWOP ensures sex workers who work legally / illegally are equipped with knowledge to access;

the Territories legislative framework specific to sex work with peer strategies and resources for WH&S

safer sex supplies-SWOP packs & SWOP Shop, information in the prevention of and referral for treatment of blood borne viruses, sexually transmissible infections

our (SWRG) Sex Worker Reference Group – meetings, legal working party and developed resources,

pathways to Scarlet Alliance, co-presentation work with SWOP worker to other key stakeholders

SWOP-NT with sex workers and other key stakeholders enables workers to work as safely as possible under current legislation. NT sex workers are challenged by mandatory lifelong police registration if working at a registered escort agency. Private sex workers must work alone out of hotels. Sex workers who are not registered with an agency who work with another privately in a hotel room or other accommodation and or as street workers are criminalized.

SWOP-NT in line with recommendations from AIDS 14, advocates for the decriminalisation of sex work 'The criminalisation of sex work is harmful to sex workers inhibiting access to health promotion services'.



VIXEN COLLECTIVE

Victoria

Vixen Collective remains an unfunded volunteer organisation – our work is made possible by the participation and support of sex workers in Victoria and across Australia.

Vixen Collective worked with St Kilda Legal Service (SKLS) on reforms to the Victorian Sentencing Manual for judges – resulting in the removal, in October 2016, of an instruction for judges that allowed reduced sentences for offenders that sexually assault sex workers. Subsequent to the updated Sex Work Regulations coming into effect (1st June 2016), Vixen Collective ran a sex worker consultation on the changes to advertising regulations, and with legal support from SKLS gained clarification from Consumer Affairs Victoria (CAV) on how the regulations would be applied (necessary as the changes to the regulations were extremely vague).

We have continued to address the issue of government funding going to anti sex work and non sex worker organisations, including issuing a joint Press Release with Scarlet Alliance about \$300,000 of funding being given to the anti sex work organisation 'Project Respect' in December 2016.

Vixen Collective provided submissions to Federal Government on the 'Inquiry into Establishing a Modern Slavery Act' (including attending the roundtable and testifying at hearings for this inquiry), as well as the re-initialised 'Inquiry into Human Trafficking' (testifying at the hearings).

Vixen Collective worked with the Victorian Equal Opportunities and Human Rights Commission on Guidelines for Family Violence Services working with sex workers (launched in June 2016), this was a key piece of work given that the report of the Royal Commission on Family Violence had placed sex workers voices secondary to that of anti sex work groups.

Vixen Collective held meetings and skill shares with local peers, including on the topics of 'Screening and Security' and 'Policing and Sex Work'.

Going forward into the next year we continue to focus on consultation with local sex workers in order to direct our work.



**ASSOCIATE
MEMBER
ORGANISATION
REPORTS**



SWOP NSW

New South Wales

Working under our sex worker developed strategic plan with twin intertwined goals, SWOP spent the last year consolidating our work toward best practice. As part of this consolidation we achieved Australian Service Excellence Standards (ASES) accreditation at certificate level. Rather than just gaining a certificate to put on a wall, we'll be building upon this quality improvement assessment in practical and pragmatic ways that will deliver optimum results for NSW sex workers.

SWOP's service delivery to NSW sex workers in 2016-17 included 526 sex services premises visits, and 4,851 significant interactions with NSW sex industry workers. We made 53 outreach visits to rural/regional areas, and improved our culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) outreach to regional/rural areas 36% on the previous year. This year we also began providing direct outreach and other support to sex workers in NSW prisons.

Across the year SWOP distributed 221,604 free safer sex items; produced 10 new or upgraded resources and distributed 36,470 printed resources (up 114% on 2015-16). In the online sphere, our website (currently being upgraded) remained steady with just under 80,000 unique visitors.

SWOP's social media accounts on Facebook and Twitter continued to grow, reaching 2.5 million people. We also began outreaching Chinese sex workers on WeChat.

SWOP worked to prevent negative structural change by sitting on 12 advisory committees, testifying at 2 Government inquiries, and making 14 submissions to decision makers, regulatory authorities, media outlets and others, advocating for NSW sex workers.



Free safer sex supplies and resources for sex workers distributed on outreach to regional NSW



RHED

Victoria

RhED is the state wide service for sex workers, their family, clients, and community in the Victorian sex industry. RhED works with all aspects of the regulated and unregulated sex industry. The services are outreach based with a drop-in component in St Kilda.

RhED is funded to provide education, advocacy, referrals, counselling and support, with some of our services providing case management.

Achievements 2016-17

1. RhED managed a stall at Melbourne's SEXPO event providing education and information to the general community about the sex industry in Victoria.
2. RhED ran professional development workshops in collaboration with Touching Base.
3. RhED contributed and participated in the SexED Up disability forum.
4. RhED participated in Pride March 2017.
5. Continued growth of volunteer peer program, including paid bilingual peers in the community interpreter program.
6. Peer led Hustling to Health (H2H) program operates on Friday nights and was a finalist for the Minister for Health Volunteer Awards.
7. The Arrest Referral program continues to support sex workers charged with non-violent crime at monthly Loiter Court sessions held at Melbourne Magistrates Court. The legal clinic on Fridays continues to operate.
8. Young Women's Support Worker continues to provide case management support to identifying young women 15-25 years.
9. RhED marked International Day to End Violence Against Sex Workers, International Day for Sex Workers Rights, International Sex Workers Day, and Transgender Day of Remembrance.
10. RhED continues to actively lobby for legislative change



TOUCHING BASE

National

Touching Base is a not-for-profit organisation established in Sydney, NSW in 2000. We developed out of the need to assist people with disability and sex workers connect with each other. Touching Base receives no core funding and is administered entirely by volunteers.

Our patrons include two of Australia's most well-known human rights campaigners, The Hon. Michael Kirby AC CMG and Eva Cox AO, esteemed academic researchers Professor Basil Donovan and Associate Professor Helen Meekosha, and Peter Woods OAM, an elder statesman in the area of Local Government within NSW, Australia and internationally.

Our activities over the last twelve months have included: expanding our national referral list connecting people with disability and sex workers; consultation and advocacy

with key stakeholders on law reform and policies; and presenting at conferences and universities. This year we delivered four workshops to disability sector workers and two sex worker only workshops (Melbourne, Victoria & Darwin, Northern Territory). The night before the Darwin workshop there was a special screening of the documentary Scarlet Road. After the documentary there was a Q & A panel including Rachel Wotton (Touching Base), Jules Kim & Ryan Cole (Scarlet Alliance) and members of SWOP NT.

We ended 2016 celebrating with Rachel Wotton, one of our founding members, who has been granted a Winston Churchill Fellowship, and Saul Isbister, who won the UK Sexual Freedom Award – Sex worker of the Year for 2016.



MAGENTA

Western Australia



Over the previous 12 months Magenta has continued to provide clinical services, education and support to sex workers in Western Australia. Sex workers have sought support and information on a variety of issues, including sexual health, protective behaviours, peer support, referrals and legislation queries. Magenta continues to have a high percentage of staff with peer experience and to actively seek feedback on service provision from the sex worker community.

Magenta has increased a focus on social media this year. The agency has begun distributing relevant, peer designed and reviewed content on multiple social media platforms. While this approach to distributing information is new to the agency, initial feedback has been overwhelmingly positive from the sex worker community.

“DECRIMINALISATION
OF SEX WORK
IS AN ESSENTIAL
 COMPONENT
OF AN EFFECTIVE
HIV RESPONSE” 

FINANCIAL REPORTS

TREASURER REPORT

For the year ended 30th June, 2017

Scarlet Alliance's Income and Expenditure hovered at a similar level to the previous year. However, the funding environment remains tenuous and significant amounts of work were undertaken to achieve this outcome.

Our reports show \$1,206,238 income for the year, most coming from grants for activity contracts with Australian Government and State government departments. Scarlet Alliance's main contract with the Commonwealth Department of Health shrank by \$30,270 resulting in changes to project activities, positions and reduction of staff hours. Some minor increases in revenue were achieved from professional services, delivering trainings, representation and presentations, and management of funds in higher interest bearing accounts.

It is worth noting that almost half of the income (and expenditure) relates to funding for state based services in Tasmania \$40,000 and South Australia \$462,139. The auspicing of member organisations, to support their progress to independence, is important work for Scarlet Alliance but it can make our income (and expenditure) seem much greater. The SIN project activities cycle through our financial management system – but are for state based services and not for the national peak organisation work of Scarlet Alliance.

A change in funding this year leaves Tasmania as the only state without Department of Health funded sex worker services. Tasmania's Department of Premier and Cabinet stepped in to save the valuable project and will continue to support the program in 2017 however at 40% less than

previous years under Tasmanian Department of Health and Human Services funding.

Expenditure of \$1,155,178 was managed through careful budgeting and implementation of budgets and controls by the CEO and staff team.

As for the future, the end of the Migration Project funded by the Attorney Generals Department for the last 9 years, leaves a significant reduction in funding from 30th June, 2017. This shift in focus by the Attorney Generals Department resulted in the loss of skilled project staff and organisational capacity. Our membership and migrant workers will still look to Scarlet Alliance to provide this support however the organisations capacity has been significantly reduced.

There remains a major gap in funding for the core work of Scarlet Alliance as sex workers continue to remain locked out of Federal Health Department's funding for National Peaks.

The Financial Position at June 30 2017 shows \$51,868 in retained earnings, increasing the equity of the organisation, leaving Scarlet Alliance in a reasonable cash flow position for its 2017-2018 work. The organisation remains in a strong position, with good financial and administrative systems, to attract and manage additional funds in the future.

The Auditors report shows Scarlet Alliance to be a viable entity at June 30 2017, and states that the accounting practices are to Australian standards. I commend the work of the staff in preparing the reports and thank the team for this high quality of accountability.

Maria McMahon
Treasurer

Scarlet Alliance, Australian Sex Workers Association Inc
ABN: 86 612 112 065

**SCARLET ALLIANCE,
AUSTRALIAN SEX WORKERS ASSOCIATION INC
ABN: 86 612 112 065**

**FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017**

AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION
Under Section 307C of the Corporations Act 2001

I declare that to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the financial year ended 30 June 2017 there have been:

1. no contraventions of the auditor's independence requirements as set out in the Corporations Act 2001 in relation to the audit; and
2. no contravention of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.



John Chahoud
Reg. Company Auditor No. 4287
469 Burwood Road, Belmore NSW 2192
Phone: (02) 9759 4676 Fax (02) 9759 4676

Signed this 6th day of October 2017, in Sydney.

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STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

	Note	2017 \$	2016 \$
REVENUE			
Grants			
Department of Health		300,000	330,270
SA Health		369,922	363,738
SA ERO		31,997	14,894
DASSA		55,426	55,426
DASSA ERO		4,794	-
Attorney General's Department		120,000	123,029
Tasmanian Department of Health and Human Services		-	66,245
Tasmanian Department of Premier and Cabinet		40,000	-
Other domestic		146,829	97,661
Total grants		1,068,968	1,051,263
Investment income - Interest		4,641	2,662
Other income			
Professional services income		6,200	1,499
Membership fees		20,557	18,018
Other		105,872	109,293
Total other income		132,629	128,810
TOTAL REVENUE		1,206,238	1,182,735
International Political or Religious Adherence Promotion Programs Expenditure			
Domestic Programs Expenditure			
Salaries & Oncosts		694,392	761,566
Direct Program Expenses		109,424	107,020
Administration	2	134,429	128,197
Travel & Accommodation		56,567	49,680
Fundraising costs - Government, multilateral and private	4	21,476	23,554
Surplus funds rolled over		138,890	110,673
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		1,155,178	1,180,690
EXCESS / (SHORTFALL) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENDITURE		51,060	2,045

During the financial year, Scarlet Alliance, Australian Sex Workers Association Inc had no revenue in the following categories: Donations and gifts - Monetary; Donations and gifts - Non-Monetary; Bequests and Legacies; Grants - Other Overseas; and Revenue for International Political or Religious Adherence Promotion Programs.

During the financial year, Scarlet Alliance had no expenditure in the following categories: (International Aid and Development Programs Expenditure) International Programs: Funds to international programs & Program support costs; Fundraising costs: Government, Multilateral and Private; Accountability and Administration; Surplus funds rolled over; and International Political or Religious Adherence Promotion Programs. (Domestic Programs Expenditure) Community Education; Fundraising costs - Public; Non-Monetary Expenditure; and International Political or Religious Adherence Promotion Programs.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
 AS AT 30 JUNE 2017

	Note	2017 \$	2016 \$
ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents		470,686	355,196
Trade and other receivables		9,007	23,746
Prepayments		3,444	9,206
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		<u>483,137</u>	<u>388,148</u>
NON CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, plant & equipment		522,600	522,800
TOTAL NON CURRENT ASSETS		<u>522,600</u>	<u>522,800</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>1,005,737</u>	<u>910,948</u>
LIABILITIES			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables		(13,278)	223
Current tax liabilities		20,057	26,166
Provisions		34,022	29,964
Grants in Advance	3	190,180	110,673
Other - Accrued expenses		27,085	47,857
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>258,066</u>	<u>214,883</u>
NON CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Provisions		92,846	93,108
TOTAL NON CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>92,846</u>	<u>93,108</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES		<u>350,912</u>	<u>307,991</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>654,825</u>	<u>602,957</u>
EQUITY			
Reserves		-	-
Retained Earnings		602,957	600,910
Current Earnings		51,868	2,047
TOTAL EQUITY		<u>654,825</u>	<u>602,957</u>

At the end of the year Scarlet Alliance had no balances in the following categories: For *Current Assets*: Inventories; Assets held for sale; and Other financial assets. For *Non-Current Assets*: Trade and other receivables; Other financial assets; Investment property; Intangibles; and Other non-current assets. For *Current Liabilities*: Borrowings; Other financial liabilities; and Other. For *Non-Current Liabilities*: Borrowings; Other financial liabilities; and Other. For *Equity*: Reserves and Other equity have been omitted as no such equity items exist at balance sheet date (see Statement of Changes in Equity).

**STATEMENT OF CASHFLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017**

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Receipts from funders, donors and customers	1,417,299	1,310,457
Payments to suppliers and employees	(1,306,449)	(1,285,306)
Interest received (net)	4,641	2,662
Net cash from operating activities	<u>27,813</u>	<u>27,813</u>
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Payments for furniture & fittings and plant & equipment acquired	-	-
Net cash used in investing activities	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents held	115,490	27,813
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	355,196	327,383
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	<u>470,686</u>	<u>355,196</u>

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

	Retained Earnings	Reserves	Other	Total
Balance at 1 July 2016	602,957	-	-	602,957
Adjustments or changes in equity due to, for example, adoptions of new accounting standards	-	-	-	-
Items of other comprehensive income	-	-	-	-
Excess of revenue over expenses	51,868	-	-	51,868
Other amounts transferred (to) or from reserves	-	-	-	-
Balance at 30 June 2017 (year end balance)	654,825	-	-	654,825

Reserves and Other Equity have been omitted as no such equity items exist at balance sheet date. As such, no transfers to / from reserves have occurred. No adjustments arising from changes in accounting standards or changes in assets' fair values have occurred.

TABLE OF CASH MOVEMENTS FOR DESIGNATED PURPOSES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

	Cash available at beginning of financial year	Cash raised during financial year	Cash disbursed during financial year	Cash available at end of financial year
Domestic Projects	110,673	1,149,416	1,069,910	190,179
Total for other non-designated purposes	244,523	272,523	236,539	280,507
TOTAL	355,196	1,421,939	1,306,449	470,686

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

1 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Scarlet Alliance, Australian Sex Workers Association Inc. is an incorporated association, incorporated and domiciled in Australia. Its principal place of business is at Suite 203, 1 Erskineville Road, Newtown, NSW 2042.

The financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act ACT. The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity.

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historic costs and does not take into account changing money values or, except where specifically stated, current valuations of non-current assets.

The following significant accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless otherwise stated, have been adopted in the preparation of this financial report.

a. Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash on hand and in bank is stated at its nominal value. For the purposes of the statement of cash flows, cash includes cash on hand and in bank, net of outstanding bank overdrafts.

b. Trade and Other Receivables

Trade receivables are recognised and carried at original invoice amount less any allowance for impairment. An allowance for impairment of receivables is recognised when collection of the full amount is no longer probable. Significant financial difficulties of the debtor, probability that the debtor will enter into bankruptcy or financial reorganisation, and default or delinquency in payments (more than 90 days overdue) are considered indicators that the trade receivable is impaired.

The amount of the provision is recognised in the statement of comprehensive income. When a trade receivable for which an impairment allowance had been recognised becomes uncollectible in a subsequent period, it is written off against the allowance account. Subsequent recoveries of amounts previously written off are credited against other expenses in the statement of comprehensive income. Bad debts are written off as incurred.

c. Property, Plant & Equipment

Cost and Evaluation

Property, plant and equipment are carried at cost less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation or impairment losses.

Depreciation

The carrying amount of property, plant and equipment is reviewed annually by the committee members to ensure it is not in excess of the recoverable amount from these assets. The recoverable amount is assessed on the basis of expected net cash flows that will be received from the assets' employment and subsequent disposal. The expected net cash flows have not been discounted to their present values in determining recoverable amounts.

The depreciable amount of all fixed assets is calculated on a straight-line basis over their effective life to the entity, commencing from the time the asset is held ready or available for use. The rates used for each class of depreciable assets are:

Class of Fixed Assets	Depreciation Rate
Phone System	5%

d. Trade and Other Payables

Liabilities for trade creditors and other amounts are carried at cost, which is the fair value of the consideration to be paid in the future for goods and services received, whether or not billed to the association.

e. Employee Benefits

A liability is recognised for the association's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to balance date. Long service leave payable later than one year has been accrued in respect of all employees with more than five years service with the association; it has been measured based on remuneration rates current at the reporting date. In the opinion of the committee members this estimate of long service leave is not materially different from the estimate determined by using the present value basis of measurement.

f. Income Tax

The association is exempt from income tax under the current provisions of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1977.

g. Economic Dependency

A significant volume of the association's revenue is from Government grants.

h. Comparative Figures

Where required by accounting standards, comparative figures have been adjusted to conform to changes in presentation for the current financial year.

i. Revenue Recognition

Revenue from the sale of goods and disposal of assets is recognised when the entity has passed control of the goods or other assets to the buyer.

Revenue from the provision of services is recognised when the service has been provided.

Revenue from investments is recognised when received.

j. Going Concern

The association has generated a surplus for the financial year ended 30 June 2017 and has accumulated equity as of that date of \$654,825. The ability of the association to continue as a going concern is dependent on the ongoing support of the government and private grants and its members. Should the grants be withdrawn, there is significant uncertainty as to the association's ability to continue as a going concern and, therefore, its ability to realise its assets and extinguish its liabilities as and when they become due and payable and at the amounts stated in the financial report. The committee members believe that the association will be successful and accordingly have prepared the accounts on a going concern basis.

2 Domestic Programs Administration Expense

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
Accounting, Audit & Legal Fees	4712	4,269
Fees & Charges	570	1,578
Communications	11891	13,093
Equipment Hire, Purchase and Depreciation	26855	11,245
Stationery & Supplies	1805	1,588
Gifts	229	1,013
Insurance	8993	9,200
Photocopying	302	1,142
Postage/Courier	861	1,047
Subscriptions	3408	4,868
Occupancy Expense	74803	79,154
	134,429	128,197

3 Grants in Advance

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
Department of Health	-	-
SA Health	25,130	-
SA Health, ERO	-	-
Drug and Alcohol Services of South Australia	-	-
Drug and Alcohol Services of South Australia, ERO	-	-
Tasmanian Department of Premier and Cabinet	-	-
Attorney General's Department	(10,000)	-
Other Domestic	175,050	110,673
	190,180	110,673

4 Fundraising Costs

The association has incurred fundraising costs of \$21,476 during the financial year ended 30 June 2017. Fundraising costs consist of salary and wages paid for employee's time spent on the preparation of funding submissions, acquittals and maintenance of government grants, as per the definition outlined in the ACFID Code.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the requirements set out in the *ACFID Code of Conduct*. For further information on the Code please refer to the *ACFID Code of Conduct Implementation Guidance* available at www.acfid.asn.au.

STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

In the opinion of the committee the financial report as set out on pages 1 to 10:

- 1 Presents a true and fair view of the financial position of Scarlet Alliance, Australian Sex Workers Association Inc as at 30 June 2017 and its results and cash flows of the Association for the year ended on that date in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards.
- 2 At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Scarlet Alliance, Australian Sex Workers Association Inc will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Committee and is signed for and on behalf of the Committee by:

Jill Martin
Acting President



Jill Martin

Maria McMahon
Treasurer



M. F. McMahon.

Dated this 31st day of August, 2017

**INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT
TO THE MEMBERS OF
SCARLET ALLIANCE – AUSTRALIAN SEX WORKERS ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED
ABN 86 612 112 065**

We have audited the accompanying special purpose financial report of Scarlet Alliance – Australian Sex Workers Association Incorporated, which comprises the Balance sheet as at 30 June 2017, the income statement and cash flow statement for the year ended 30 June 2017, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the statement of Management Committee members.

Responsibility for the financial report

The management committee are responsible for the preparation of the financial report and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the financial report is appropriate to meet the financial reporting requirements of the Association Incorporation Act 1991 (ACT) and is appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The Management committee's responsibility also includes establishing and maintaining such internal control as they determine what is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We have conducted our audit in accordance with Australian auditing standards. Those standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation of the financial report that gives a fair presentation, in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by those charged with governance as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Independence

In conducting our audit we have complied with the independence requirements of the Australian professional accounting bodies.

Electronic publication of the audited financial report

It is our understanding that the Scarlet Alliance – Australian Sex Workers Association Incorporated intends to electronically present the audited financial report and auditor's report on its internet website. Responsibility for the electronic presentation of the financial report on the Scarlet Alliance – Australian Sex Workers Association Incorporated website is that of those charged with governance of the Scarlet Alliance – Australian Sex Workers Association Incorporated. The security and controls over information on the website should be addressed by the Scarlet Alliance – Australian Sex Workers Association Incorporated to maintain the integrity of the data presented. The examination of the controls over the electronic presentation of audited financial report(s) on the Scarlet Alliance – Australian Sex Workers Association Incorporated website is beyond the scope of the audit of the financial report.

**INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT
TO THE MEMBERS OF
SCARLET ALLIANCE – AUSTRALIAN SEX WORKERS ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED
ABN 86 612 112 065**

Audit Opinion

In our opinion, the financial report

- i) presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Scarlet Alliance – Australian Sex Workers Association Incorporated as at 30 June 2017 and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended on the date, and
- ii) complies with Australian accounting standards to the extent described in Note 1 and the Associations Incorporation Act 1991 (ACT).

Basis of accounting and restriction on distribution

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the management committee's reporting responsibilities under the constitution. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.



John Chahoud

Reg. Company Auditor No. 4287
469 Burwood Road, Belmore NSW 2192
Phone: (02) 9759 4676 Fax (02) 9759 4676

Dated this 6th October , 2017