



Australian
Sex Workers
Association

ANNUAL REPORT

2017-18



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 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 2018-2019 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.

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.



Scarlet Alliance National Forum, Sydney 2017

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.

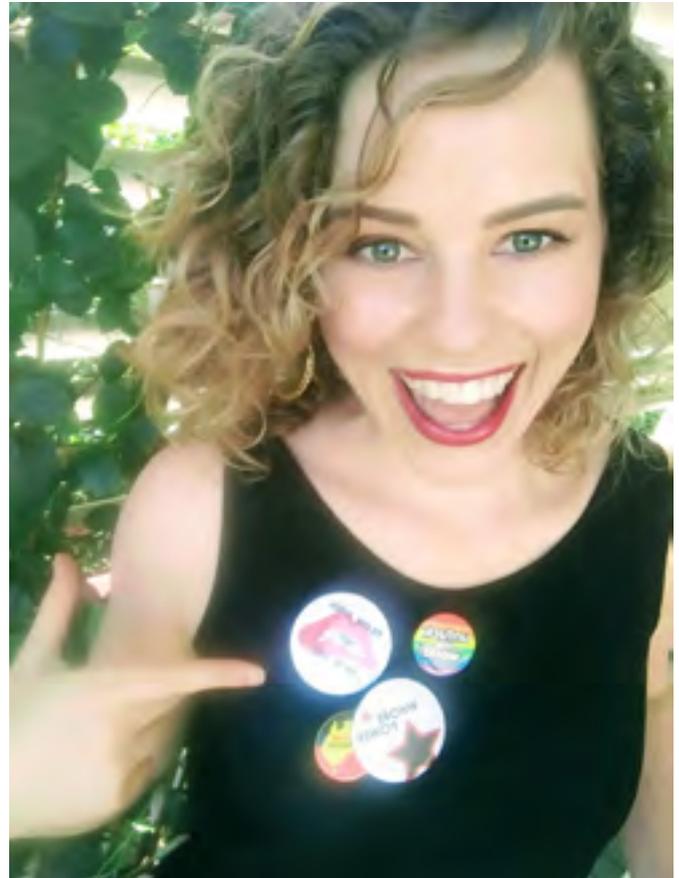
PRESIDENT REPORT

2018 has been a year of challenges for the sex work community, a year of setbacks, fear and loss. But ultimately, as we approach these challenges together, we still make progress, and together find hope.

Since the changes in national funding strategies in 2016 that saw Scarlet Alliance funding shift to activity funding and the discontinuation of the International and Migration Programs, we have seen a reduced organisational capacity due to substantial staffing reductions. Financial autonomy and creative funding sources have been important topics for our Executive this year and we will need to continue to focus energy on sustaining Scarlet Alliance's financial needs and carefully stewarding our organisation's financial health.

With the launch of our new strategic plan this year, we are reminded of Scarlet Alliance's strength as a peer-based organisation with a strong community consensus on our values, aims and objectives. On many occasions this year I have been privileged to witness representatives of Scarlet Alliance speak publicly with authority and clarity about the principles of peer-based leadership and of 'leaving no-one behind', proudly sharing our strengths and our commitment to our principles with other organisations. In 2018 we have also begun the process of constitutional review, a process that, while challenging, will help Scarlet Alliance evolve to meet the changing needs of its membership.

The National BBV and STI strategies were finally launched in 2018 after many months of development contributed to by sex workers at multiple levels. In the final review stages our CEO Jules Kim continued the exhaustive push from sex workers to maintain the best possible strategies for the health and wellbeing of our community as well as other key populations.



Something that has stayed with me throughout the year has been the devastating outcome of CJ Palmer's trial and sentencing. The events of CJ's case are a stark reminder of the injustice still faced by sex workers, as well as transgender people and people living with HIV. The sex worker and allied communities raised over \$2000 to support CJ and Scarlet Alliance continues to support her as she progresses through her appeal.

Globally, FOSTA/SESTA has been a major setback for sex worker communities, representing a significant political attack on our ability to work, and to work safely. At a time when so many sex workers are reliant on online interactions for work, changes to online platforms and digital security have been debilitating for many sex workers. Fear has been palpable amongst many groups in the months following FOSTA/SESTA, but overall the response of the sex worker

community has been focused on resilience, generosity and skill sharing, as well as a significant amount of teeth-gritting.

In Australia we continue to face challenges as discriminatory and harmful policies, legislation and law enforcement practices crop-up. This year saw the introduction of the NSW Modern Slavery Bill to Parliament by the Christian Democrats, and continuing support for the Nordic model from the Victorian Greens. In Queensland we've seen increasing police stings and a number of arrests since new, repressive advertising guidelines were released last year. At every turn, local sex worker organisations and individuals have met this creeping infringement on our rights with vocal objection, showcasing our strength by demanding our voices be heard in debates about our work and our rights. Representatives of Scarlet Alliance, as well as members of local organisations, have attended events, written articles, lobbied politicians and spoken up to stop this creeping tide.

In the face of this opposition to human rights, we have seen progress in legal reform across the states and territories. In South Australia, a comprehensive, best-practice decriminalisation bill remains tabled after passing through the upper house last year with multi-party support. In the Northern Territory, SWOP NT and the NT Sex Worker Reference Group have made significant progress towards decriminalisation and



are hopeful reform will happen in the near future. In the ACT we have seen pressure increasing for sex work law reform. In Queensland, local organisation DecrimQLD have made incredible progress, and after one short year the Attorney General have confirmed the possible decriminalisation of sex work. The work by sex workers to achieve these gains is a testament to our community's strength and resilience, and their commitment to change. As a younger sex worker myself, I remain deeply impressed and grateful that so many more experienced members of our community have dedicated many years to advocating for sex worker rights, sometimes long after their own time working in the sector has ended.

This year our community lost two valued, much-loved members, Jade Barker and Roberta Perkins. As a community we are often faced with the challenge of maintaining resilience in the face of loss, tragedy and injustice. Many of the days sex workers mark on our calendars are days we commemorate our losses, and our vulnerability as a community to violence through repressive laws and barriers to accessing justice. As we continue to advocate for our rights, as we continue to make progress and overcome the creeping tide of resistance, we find joy in our successes, successes that we owe to those who have come before us, and those who will come after us.

Vale Jade Barker and Roberta Perkins.



CEO REPORT

This year there has been momentum growing in sex worker driven, grass roots campaigns towards law reform. Throughout Australia there has been positive progress toward the recognition of sex work as work and the need for the decriminalisation of sex work for our rights, health and safety. This is what sex workers have been calling on for years and as the ever growing mountain of evidence irrefutably shows, criminalising or licensing sex work leads to negative outcomes in public health, is incredibly costly to governments and far from protecting sex workers, it drives sex work underground, fostering exploitation and creating human and labour rights violations against sex workers. By contrast, the full decriminalisation of sex work has been shown to result in exceptional public health outcomes, is low cost to maintain, creates greater transparency in the sex industry and results in improved occupational health and safety for sex workers and better outcomes for sex workers, communities and government.

We are finally starting to see evidence and common sense prevailing over misguided moralising and misconceptions about us and our work that characterise us as victims without agency or as criminals underserving of rights or justice. This year we have seen Labor governments in Queensland,



On stage at AIDS2018 with sex worker police from EMPOWER Thailand, subpoenaing Global Fund and UNAIDS AP



CEO Jules Kim speaking on a sex worker panel at the 2018 International AIDS Conference in Amsterdam

Northern Territory and Victoria pass motions in support of decriminalisation of sex work as party policy. We saw the ACT pass laws that removes the requirement for individual sex workers to register, repeals discriminatory laws in relation to sex work, blood borne viruses and sexually transmissible infections, requires employers to provide personal protective equipment including condoms and lubricant to sex workers and removes stigmatising language in the legislation and replace it with non-judgemental, gender neutral, community preferred terminology. We have seen the revitalisation of the best practice bill for the full decriminalisation of sex work in South Australia which has pan partisan support across government. The SA Decriminalisation of Sex Work Bill was tabled in parliament by Greens MLC Tammy Franks in May this year, which is the same Bill sponsored by Liberal Upper House MP Michelle Lensink in 2015 that passed unamended through the Upper House and has the public support of SA Attorney General and Deputy Premier, Vickie Chapman.

And behind the scenes of these achievements (and often upfront) has been the indefatigable work of sex workers and their organisations. The successful evidence based advocacy



Jules with SIN, Tammy Franks MLC, SA Women’s Lawyers Association at Parliament House of South Australia for Decriminalisation Briefing Session for SA parliamentarians



Jules with the Shadow Minister for Health Catherine King and national peaks CEOs for press conference on Labor funding commitment to make HIV history

of Respect Inc and DecrimQLD saw the Attorney General announce recently the possible decriminalisation of sex work is currently under discussion between the Attorney-General and the Police Minister in Queensland. This is a massive turnaround for a state that has had a harmful legislative model of licensing and police entrapment in place for over 18 years. And we have campaigned alongside and in support of our members against harmful laws and to progress positive reforms. In the Northern Territory, SWOP NT and their Sex Worker Reference Group have been collaborating effectively with the NT Government to achieve positive outcomes for the workplace health and safety of sex workers. Together with Vixen Collective in Victoria, we successfully blocked the passing of the Nordic Model into Victorian Liberal Party policy resulting in a letter from the leader of the Victorian Liberal Party assuring us that they had no intention of implementing the Nordic Model of sex work criminalisation. And the list goes on. But this is only a small portion of the significant work of both Scarlet Alliance and our member organisations as you will see in the following pages of this year’s Annual Report.

Another significant achievement this year that warrants celebration is SIN SA’s success in becoming an incorporated independent organisation. Following on from an auspicious relationship with Scarlet Alliance that commenced in late 2013, SIN is now in the final stages of becoming a fully autonomous independent sex worker

organisation. This is on track and in line with the agreed intentions moving into this relationship with SIN and with the vision and goals of the Scarlet Alliance Strategic Plan to ‘actively support member organisations to move towards independence and autonomy.’ It has been my great privilege to work closely together with SIN during this exciting time of transition to autonomy and imminent legislative reform to full decriminalisation of sex work that has been led and driven by sex workers throughout.

And as always I would like to thank Scarlet Alliance staff, Executive, spokespersons, representatives and their doubles who drive Scarlet Alliance and our work. This year I would like to especially acknowledge our membership of individual sex workers and sex worker organisations, projects and collectives who constantly guide Scarlet Alliance to achieve our vision of being an autonomous, viable, representative, transparent and accountable peak national sex worker organisation.



Jules with the Deputy Leader of the Opposition Tanya Plibersek at Reclaim the Night Rally

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

2018 was another year spent soliciting for change, as Scarlet Alliance fought back against the many forms of stigma and discrimination that we face as sex workers. Addressing stigma and discrimination is the first point in Scarlet Alliance's organisational objectives. These objectives are the foundation to all of the work of this year's Executive Committee. Through media, representation, legislation, health, policies and the arts, the Scarlet Alliance Executive Committee have been pushing forward that sex workers must be central in leading all laws, policies and issues that affect our lives.

As always, the work we are able to do is built on the work of those before us. This year we lost two amazing activist and friends. In July we said farewell to our friend, colleague and fierce advocate Jade Barker. Jade was employed as the Project Coordinator at the Scarlet Alliance Tasmanian Sex Worker Project from 2009 to 2017. She worked tirelessly to raise the profile of sex worker rights and to battle the abolitionists in Tasmania. We also lost another friend and influential sex worker and trans rights activist, academic, researcher and author Roberta Perkins. Roberta was involved in activism and advocacy on trans and sex worker rights since the 1980's. Roberta's influence and impact on sex worker rights



still keenly felt in the lives and work of sex workers today. We celebrate their lives and acknowledge how their work has and will impact the lives of so many others, past, present and future.

The priorities and input of our community shaped this year's new Strategic Plan, which can now be viewed on our website at www.scarletalliance.org.au/library/Stratplan1820. This document describes our shared visions and provides prioritised long and short-term goals, and strategies under each vision. The Strategic Plan provides the strategic framework and direction to Scarlet Alliance's work for the next three years. It is the result of extensive input from Scarlet Alliance membership, staff, volunteers and Executive Committee members. We would like to thank everyone who provided your valuable time and guidance to shape the Strategic Plan for Scarlet Alliance for 2018-2020.

Representation continued to be a key part of Scarlet Alliance's work. Scarlet Alliance Executive members, representatives, spokespeople and staff ensured representation of key issues for sex workers throughout a variety of fora. A list of some of these appears in the Leadership and Representation section in this report. A notable highlight was the panel on Key Issues for Sex Workers and HIV at the AFAO community hub of 2017 Australasian HIV & STI Conference in Canberra. This panel presented by Scarlet Alliance and chaired



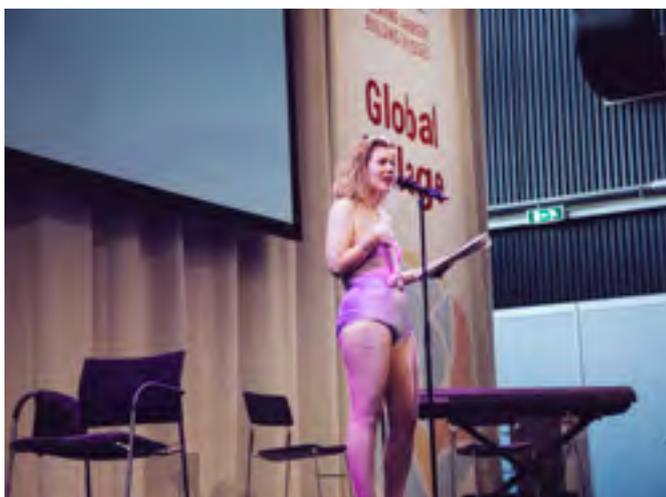


by CEO Jules Kim, included talks by the then Male Representative Paco Santana, Trans and Gender Diverse Representative Mish Pony, Policy Officer Kali Karnivale, a representative from the local member organisation SWOP ACT, Lex Jury and special guest CJ Palmer, who was granted special exemption to travel while on bail pending her case. CJ who is a trans woman sex worker of colour was at the time awaiting trial for the charge of grievous bodily harm for allegedly transmitting HIV to her ex-partner. Since then CJ was sentenced to an appalling 6 years in a maximum security men's prison. Scarlet Alliance, our associated member organisation Magenta, the National Association of People with HIV Australia (NAPWHA), and the WA AIDS Council (WAAC) continue to provide support to CJ as she progresses through an appeal of this unjust sentence.

The Scarlet Alliance Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Working Group continued to be active under the leadership of Executive general member Rosa Curtis. The Group presented an excellent educational and emotional workshop for sex workers at the 2017 National Forum, complete with a cleansing smoking ceremony for the sex worker participants to literally and

metaphorically burn away the labels used against us. Rosa, Brie and Sam from the Working Group represented issues for Aboriginal Sex Workers at the ATSIHAW Breakfast for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander HIV Awareness Week and Rosa delivered a speech highlighting the issues that disproportionately impact on indigenous sex workers at the International Day to End Violence Against Sex Workers event held by SWOP NSW.

In celebration of International Whores Day on June 2, the Scarlet Alliance Executive held a fundraiser at the Red Rattler Theatre with a performance by Vice President and internationally renowned sex worker performer Queenie Bon Bon of her award winning show that examines issues in relation to sex work, mental health and stigma, 'Welcome to the Mystic Hole'. This was followed by a panel MC'd by our Treasurer Maria McMahon's infamous alter ego Kooky Devine with speakers including Queenie, Rosa and special guest, long time sex worker advocate and recent Order of Australia (AO) Recipient Dame Julie Bates. The event was a great success and raised money towards scholarships for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander sex workers to attend this year's National Forum.



Law reform remained a constant priority for Scarlet Alliance and our members. Throughout the year we submitted to a number of inquiries, lobbied for progressive law reform and intervened where problematic laws were being threatened. Support was provided to our member organisations who have been fearlessly and successfully progressing campaigns to improve the rights, health and safety for sex workers through legislative reform. An example of this was in the Northern Territory, where the NT Government conducted a review to modernise their Anti-Discrimination Act. Scarlet Alliance provided support to SWOP NT and their Sex Worker Reference Group in their powerful advocacy to ensure the inclusion of the voices and needs of sex workers. Scarlet Alliance, SWOP NT and local sex workers from the Sex Worker Reference Group met with the Department of the Attorney-General and Justice to recount the experiences of sex workers in relation to direct and systemic discrimination and made submissions that recommended the inclusion of 'sex work' and 'sex worker' as protected attributes in anti-discrimination legislation. Other examples are highlighted through this report including in our member reports and in our Leadership and Representation section.

Consistent with the priorities outlined in our Strategic Plan, Scarlet Alliance continued to conduct consultations on key issues and resources to ensure the voices and needs of sex workers were accurately reflected. With



the drafting of the new National BBV and STI Strategies for the next 5 years underway, Scarlet Alliance conducted consultations to ensure the input of our state and territory member organisations and of diverse sex worker voices from around Australia. The National BBV and STI Strategies are a key resource that guides the national response to BBV and STI's throughout Australia. The inclusion of sex worker's priorities and needs are crucial to ensure that responses to BBV and STI's in Australia, including prevention initiatives, services, testing, and policies support sex workers not harm us.

Consultations remained foundational to the update and launch of the Scarlet Alliance Redbook Online STI and BBV Resources By and For Sex Workers. The many previous versions of the print copy Redbook had been built on a principle of community consultation and ownership and a sex worker led approach to STI and BBV prevention and peer education for sex workers. The online version has been developed over the past two years with constant community consultation and like its predecessor in print, it has been led by sex workers every step of the way. We want to thank Debby Doesn't Do It for Free for allowing us to use their amazing sex worker artworks throughout the online resource. <https://redbook.scarletalliance.org.au>

The Executive would also like to thank all the sex workers around Australia who have and continue to contribute to the work of Scarlet Alliance and to the strengthening and support of our community.

**GOVERNANCE,
LEADERSHIP &
REPRESENTATION**

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Eva

President

Eva is a current sex worker living in Brisbane where she complains about the heat with her dog Gilbert. Her first foray into sex work was serving people fancy beer and spring rolls in her undies, and has since worked in brothels, massage parlours, and privately around Australia and the world. Eva also previously worked with Respect, Inc. in Queensland, and she is also a copyeditor for NSWP, which she attempts to balance with her work with Scarlet Alliance, sex work, study and eating as many jalapeno-based foods as possible.



Maria

Treasurer

Maria has been involved with Scarlet Alliance as an executive committee member, member organisation delegate, sex worker advocate, staff member and MC at our events. Between gigs, she's a mature worker at a parlour for two shifts a week, having also worked in private, escort, and street based sex work. 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.



Rosa

General Member

Rosa is an Indigenous trans woman sex worker from NT currently residing in Sydney. Rosa is one of the founding members of Sisters and Brother NT, an advocacy group for LGBTI people in NT. She has spoken and written on a range of issues for Indigenous people, sistergirls and sex workers. As a General Member for the Scarlet Alliance executive committee, she is passionate about advocating for her community, in particular sistergirl sex workers and raising awareness of the discrimination and barriers for Indigenous sex workers.



Queenie

Vice President

Queenie is a sex worker who began working in the 90s in London and has spent most of the last decade living and working in Australia. She has worked as a stripper, in massage parlours and brothels across criminalised, legalised and decriminalised settings. Queenie is also a member of Debby Doesn't Do It For Free and has written three solo shows about being as a sex worker, her lived experiences around whorephobia, stigma and mental health, and labour and the body. This is her third year on the Executive Committee and first year as Vice President.



Erica

Secretary

Erica is a Brisbane-based sex worker who also works as a peer educator at Respect, Inc. while completing a Masters of Counselling. She has 7 years of experience in sex work in a range of different sectors and settings. One of Erica's favourite aspects of sex work is the diversity of the industry and the flexibility of the job – she enjoys getting ridiculously dressed up for work and then being a total slob in her downtime. Outside of work, she's a bookworm who loves nature and has a beautiful big dog named Lyra.



Leanne

General Member

"Militant whores inspire and mentor us, the laws have disgusted us. Get your filthy laws off our jobs! We say!" Leanne is a sex worker from the NT she contributes with her peers to sex work advocacy, labour rights and sex worker union rabble rousing since the 80's. Leanne has also worked/volunteered at sex worker only orgs/collectives in Australia and abroad for Scarlet Alliances regional partnerships. Currently Leanne is a peer coordinator at SWOP NT where she ensures current sex workers lead policy and represent as experts for reforms.

LEADERSHIP & REPRESENTATION

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

- National STI and BBV Strategies Sex Worker Consultations (September–December 2017)
 - Extensive input to the National STI and BBV Strategies (September 2017–September 2018)
 - Submission to Justice and Community Services ACT for consultation on progress on 2012 Inquiry into the Prostitution Act 1992 (September 2017)
 - Stakeholder meetings and input to NSW WH&S Guidelines for Sex Service Premises with NSW Ministry of Health, Safework, SWOP NSW, Urban Realists and Touching Base
 - Reclaim the Night Rally Speaker, Sydney (October 2017)
 - Submission to Inquiry into Establishing a Modern Slavery Act in Australia
 - ASHM Australasian HIV & AIDS and Sexual Health Conferences, Melbourne (November 2017)
 - ‘Who’s left behind in a "virtual elimination" of HIV?’ Panel
 - ‘Implications Of HIV Self Testing on Sex Workers’ Presentation
 - ‘Implications Of PrEP for Sex Workers’ Poster
 - ‘Getting It Right: Trans-inclusion in Clinical Care’ Symposium
 - ‘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’ Panel
 - Expert Committee for Blood Services Sexual Deferrals Review (November 2017 – October 2018)
 - Annual Surveillance Reports BBV and STI Cascades Reference Group (2017-2018)
- 
- International Day to End Violence Against Sex Workers (December 2017)
 - CJ Palmer Trial, Perth (January 2018)
 - Joint Media Release with Magenta and SWEAR WA, ‘Stigma, Discrimination and Incarceration in a Male Prison for CJ Palmer’ (January 2018)
 - Joint Media Release with NAPWHA, AFAO, ASHM, ‘HIV criminalisation stigmatises HIV and contributes to future HIV transmissions’ (January 2018)
 - Stigma Indicators Advisory Committee (2017-2018)
 - Ministerial Advisory Committee on Blood Borne Virus and Sexually Transmissible Infections (2017-2018)
 - Submission to the NT Modernisation of the *Anti-Discrimination Act* Consultation (February 2018)
 - Keynote speech at NZVU Symposium on Stigma, Discrimination and Sex Workers’ Rights (February 2018)
 - Policy Brief on the Impact of PrEP on Sex Workers (March 2018)
 - International Womens’ Day Rally Speaker with Unions NSW (March 2018)
 - *FOSTA/SESTA Bill* Policy Brief (March 2018)
 - *FOSTA/SESTA* Impact on Sex Workers Community Forum with SWOP NSW (March 2018)

- Joint letter and lobbying with Vixen to Victorian Liberals on the harms of the Nordic Model for sex workers (April 2018)
- Joint Media Release with Vixen Collective 'Sex workers slam Victorian Liberal Party support of harmful laws against sex workers' (April 2018)
- AIDS2014 Legacy Video (April 2018)
- Anwernekenhe National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander HIV/AIDS Alliance Special General Meeting (April 2018)



- Stall with SWOP NSW for the United Services Union May Day Rally and Family Fun Day, Sydney (May 2018)
- Submission to the WA Ministerial Review of the State Industrial Relations System (May 2018)
- AFAO Members Meeting (May 2018)
 - 'HIV among migrants and mobile populations' Panel
 - 'Criminalisation of Sex Work and HIV'
 - 'Sex Work Law Reform Around Australia Update' Presentation
 - 'The provision of prevention, care and support to people with HIV, and key populations at risk of HIV in custodial settings' Chairperson
 - 'STIs in Australia' Panel



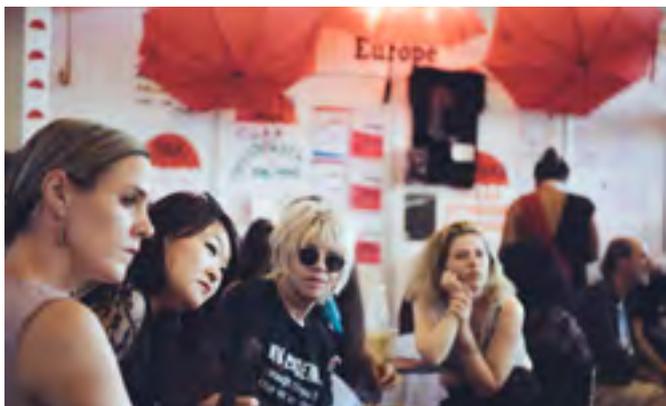
- Ask Lois NSW webinar on 'Laws covering sex work in NSW' for Women's Legal Service (June 2018)
- UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) NGO Shadow Report to Australian Review (June 2018)
- City of Sydney Late Night Library: Sex in the Emerald City, Sydney (June 2018)



- My Health Record Information Brief for Sex Workers (July 2018)
- Annual BBV and STI Surveillance Advisory Committee (2017-2018)
- Digital Security Workshop for Sex Workers with SWOP NSW, Gala Vanting and Assembly Four, Sydney (July 2018)
- 'Criminal Intimacies, Social Exclusion & (in)Justice in Australia' panel for the Queer(y)ing Justice in the Global South Conference, Sydney (July 2018)



- The Blood Borne Viruses and Sexually Transmissible Infections Standing Committee (2017-2018)
- LGBTIQ Women's Health Conference 2018, Melbourne (July 2018)
- APNSW Management Committee (2017-2018)



- International AIDS Conference 2018, Amsterdam (July 2018)
 - '23 Years of Decriminalisation in NSW' Panel
 - 'HIV Self Testing for Sex Workers' Poster
 - 'Impact of Punitive Laws Policies and Practices on Sex Workers' Vulnerability to HIV' Panel
 - 'Sex Worker Rights and Sex Workers Fights in the Asia Pacific' Panel
- ACT Decriminalisation Policy Brief for Minister for Justice with SWOP ACT, Canberra (August 2018)
- Joint Media Release with SWOP ACT & AIDS Action Council 'Sex workers welcome changes to the sex work regulations in the ACT' (August 2018)
- Media conference with ACT Minister for Justice, SWOP ACT on changes to the Sex Work Act 1992 (ACT) at Parliament House, Canberra (August 2018)
- Presentation, lobbying and briefing session on the benefits of decriminalisation and the Statutes Amendment (Decriminalisation of Sex Work) Bill 2018 to South Australian Parliamentarians with Tammy Franks MP and SIN SA, Adelaide (July-August 2018)



- Civil Society Roundtable with Eamonn Murphy, UNAIDS Asia Pacific, Sydney (September 2018)
- Sexual Violence Consultation for the Fourth Action Plan 2019-2022 of the National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children (2010-2022) (September 2018)
- ASHM Australasian HIV & AIDS and Sexual Health Conferences, Sydney (September 2018)
 - 'Legal implications of HIV disclosure: practical advices to and from health care professionals' Chairperson
 - 'Changing Sexual Culture in Business and Pleasure' Chairperson
 - 'Changing Face of STIs' Chairperson
 - 'Redbook - STI & BBV Resources by and for Sex Workers' Poster
- International Day of Action in Memory of Vanessa Campos (September 2018)
- Submission to Western Australia Inquiry on Personal Choice and Community Safety (October 2018)
- Submission to Senate Inquiry on My Health Records Amendment (Strengthening Privacy) Bill 2018 (October 2018)



- Macquarie University Sex Week, Sydney (October 2018)
 - 'Sex Work' Panel
 - 'Sex Work and the Law' Panel
- CJ Palmer Appeal, Perth (October 2018)
- 'Establishing a National Women's Health Strategy for 2020 to 2030' Survey (November 2018)
- NSW Mandatory Disease Testing Options Paper Consultation (November 2018)

REPRESENTATIVE & SPOKESPERSON REPORTS

TRANS & GENDER DIVERSE SEX WORKER 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.

This year I was joined by Elytta who was elected Trans and Gender Diverse Representative double. Throughout the year we were involved in numerous activities including:

- Feedback and acknowledgement in the ACON Discussion Paper: Effective and Meaningful Inclusion of Trans and Gender Diverse People in HIV Prevention released in December 2017

- Presenting on panels - HIV, sexual health and trans and gender diverse populations: data collection and research gaps, and HIV prevention for sex workers - implications and applications of new developments at the AFAO community hub at the joint Australasian HIV & AIDS and STI Conference in November 2017

- Presenting at the joint symposium: Getting It Right: Trans-inclusion in clinical care at Australasian HIV & AIDS Conference in November 2017



- Feedback to the South Eastern Sydney Local Health District Consumer Committee regarding sex worker and trans and gender diverse community engagement project in May 2018

- Attending the LGBTIQ Women's Health Conference in May 2018 where the trans and gender diverse representative double Elytta spoke on the panel 'Aboriginal Voices: Exploring Community and Cultural Challenges' and at the presentation 'Over-represented & invisible: Understanding and responding to the over incarceration of lesbian and bisexual women in Australia' by Danika Hardiman from Community Restorative Centre. It was also fantastic to hear Naomi Fontanos from the Philippines speak at 'A dangerous life: A Filipina transgender woman's story of trauma, survival and resilience.'

- Chairing Theme B Session 4: Changing Face of STIs and Theme D Session 7: Changing Sexual Culture in Business and Pleasure at Australasian HIV & AIDS Conference in September 2018

- Speaking on the Macquarie University Sex Week Sex Work Panel in October 2018

At the beginning of our term Elytta and I brainstormed some activities that unfortunately we didn't get around to, such



as a national mapping project of the policy and practice of incarcerated trans and gender diverse people. Hopefully this can be done in the future.

Trans and gender diverse health is gaining traction in a lot of different arenas, and we'll

probably be seeing more work done in HIV and broader health promotion, particularly if trans and gender diverse people are included in the national strategies (which looks likely at this stage).

We need to make sure that trans and gender diverse people and representative groups are central in the development of this work, and that trans and gender diverse sex workers are not sidelined. At the moment there is no peak body for trans and gender diverse people in Australia, and there are many trans and gender diverse organisations that are not community lead. If you see work being done without adequate consultation or inclusion of the trans and gender diverse community please raise it with the relevant people, or feel free to let me know!

INTERNATIONAL SEX WORKER SPOKESPERSON REPORT

I am Tori, the 2018 International Spokesperson for Scarlet Alliance. Together with Felix, 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 activists and to build and strengthen connections with sex workers and sex worker groups around the globe.

In May, Tori visited Hong Kong and met with sex worker support groups, Midnight Blue, JJJ, Reach Out for Action and Teen's Key. We discussed the variety of ways and places sex workers work, the local laws and policing



practices, the effects of the FOSTA and SESTA laws on both local and migrant workers and how the closure of backpage had hindered outreach efforts, especially with migrant workers.

Together Tori and Felix wrote several abstracts for the 2018 International AIDS conference in Amsterdam. While, unfortunately, none of the abstracts were selected, Tori attended the conference and spoke on a panel in the Sex Worker



Networking Zone about sex working in NSW alongside Jules Kim CEO of Scarlet Alliance, Julie Bates of Debby Doesn't Do It For Free and Cameron Cox, Na Mon and Joanna Megan from SWOP NSW. The panel was very well received and helped reinforce the message of the successes of decriminalisation.

The sex workers pre-meeting and AIDS 2018 were great opportunities to meet and connect with sex workers from over 35 different countries. This year's main conference was lacking content by sex workers. There were, however, several actions throughout each day. Whether it was challenging the French Minister for Health's silence on the damaging effects of the criminalisation of clients, confronting the Conference Coordination Committee on why they planned the 2020 conference in a country that denies entry to a multitude of key affected populations, such as sex workers and drug users, or parading through the streets of Amsterdam in support of sex workers rights this year was action packed.

Tori visited with Pike Long the Deputy Director of St. James Infirmary, while in San

Francisco. Pike showed her around the Jones Street clinic and was briefly introduced to Toni, St. James' new executive director. Tori was able to learn about the services offered at the clinic, the outreach St. James is doing as well as the clinics relocation. We also discussed the city's current efforts to crackdown on massage parlours.

While in Portland, Oregon, Tori met with a local sex worker and an organiser from STROLL and SWOP PDX. We spoke about work options, safety practices and current policing trends. We also spoke about issues currently facing local sex worker organising and the effects of FOSTA/SESTA.

Lastly, carrying on from the 2015-2017 International Spokes persons, we've updated the international conference list to keep the membership informed about key dates for conferences relevant to sex workers.

It has been an absolute pleasure representing Scarlet Alliance. Thank you. If you have any questions regarding international issues, please don't hesitate to contact us via email at

international@scarletalliance.org.au

KEY PROJECT ACTIVITIES

COMMUNICATIONS PROJECT

Red Book Online

This year we launched Redbook Online, our new online STI & BBV Resource for sex workers, by sex workers. After undergoing a year of development in collaboration with Scarlet Alliance staff and executive and in consultation with our membership, the iconic but out-of-print Scarlet Alliance STI Handbook was updated, expanded and transformed into Redbook Online, a new mobile-responsive website for online sex worker resources. Redbook Online caters specifically to sex workers and continues to be reviewed and updated through multiple consultations and evaluations.

Promotional materials including postcards, business cards with QR codes for discretion, and posters with information about the new Redbook Online was also developed and delivered to all member organisations to be distributed on community outreach and displayed in workplaces and sex worker organisations throughout Australia. The new web-based resource is also being promoted by Scarlet Alliance, our members



and wider community through existing avenues including social media, mailing lists, member organisation publications and the National Forum. Funding from the Commonwealth Department of Health to bring Redbook Online has been a big step in increasing accessibility of this popular resource. Along with these new digital resources, we maintained existing communication channels through the Scarlet Alliance E-lists and continuing the production of the E-Newsletter and Scarlet Letters.



Get to know this year's board members elected by our membership at our last Annual General Meeting. Interested in getting involved? Curious about how it all works? For more information on our governance and the executive committee roles, [click here](#).



Eva, President

Eva is a current sex worker living in Brisbane where she complains about the heat with her dog Gilbert. Eva's first heavy into sex work was serving people fancy beer and spring rolls in her smokes, she has since worked in hostels, massage parlours, and primarily around Australia and the world.

Eva has previously worked with Respect Inc in Queensland and is excited to have finally finished decreasing her smut. This is her second year on the exec and her first as President; she is delighted to be able to learn from the sex worker community in these roles who constantly inspire her with their courage, resilience and humour.

Eva is a copy editor for NSWP, which she attempts to balance with her work with Scarlet, sex work, study and eating as many jalapeno-based foods as possible. She pretends that she will still take up sex-kayaking professionally.



Queenie, Vice President

Queenie is a current FW who began working in the 90s in London - but has spent most of the last decade living and working in Australia. She has worked previously worked as a stripper, in massage parlours and hostels across criminalised, legalised and decriminalised settings.

Queenie is also a member of Delby Doesn't Do It For Free and has written three solo shows about her experience as a sex worker, and her lived experiences around xenophobia, stigma and mental health and labour and the body.

This is her third year on the exec and first year as Vice President. Queenie is really excited to have another year as part of the exec and feels lucky to be able to learn so so much from the other amazing people on the exec and be able to contribute to the FW community through her involvement.



Erica, Secretary

Hi, my name's Erica and I'm the current Secretary of Scarlet Alliance. I'm based in Brisbane where I'm doing my Masters of Gendering and I also work at Respect Inc as a peer educator. This February marks 8 years since I started sex work. Since then I've worked in a range of different sectors and settings.

The variety of the industry is one of my favourite aspects of the job, along with the flexibility. I also enjoy getting ridiculously dressed up for work and then being a total sloth in my down-time. Outside of work I'm a bookworm who loves nature but can't garden to save her life. You should also know that I have a beautiful big dog called Tara. We've been together for 10 years and she's the best.

The sex worker community in Australia has inspired and taught me so much in the time I've been involved. I love seeing the ways we share our skills and support each other, and there have been some massive achievements over the years. Most importantly I've learned so much more about the complex and diverse needs of our community than I did in my workshops. I look forward to applying this knowledge in my role at Scarlet, but also to keep learning and sharing with community as I go.



Maria, Treasurer

Scarlet Alliance has been part of my world for half my life. I've been involved as a volunteer executive committee member, member/organisation delegate, sex worker advocate, staff member and MC at our fab events.

Between gigs, I'm a mother/leader for two shifts a week, having also worked in private, escort, and street based sex work. Behind the party girl exterior lies a facilitator with ensuring our financial viability and promoting best practice sex worker organising. The Treasurer role is a great way to support Scarlet Alliance as a viable organisation into the future, and I'm also pleased to be re-elected my Treasurer double this year.



Rosa, General Member

Rosa Ngila is an Indigenous trans woman sex worker from NT currently residing in Sydney. Rosa is one of the founding members of Sisters and Brothers NT, an advocacy group for LGBTI people in NT. She has spoken and written on a range of issues for Indigenous people, struggle and sex workers.

As a General Member for the Scarlet Alliance executive committee, she is passionate about advocating for her community, in particular through sex workers and raising awareness of the discrimination and barriers for Indigenous sex workers.



Dee, General Member

I'm a trans worker from rural Tasmania, recently living in Hobart. I joined Scarlet Alliance after the Hodgson government ran all funding from the state's only peer outreach program. Since then I helped the introduce a binding resolution supporting full-decriminalisation into the Tasmanian ALP's platform.

As a union member I believe collective action through peer-led grassroots campaigning is the only way to win real autonomy in our industry, free from police violence and exploitation in our workplaces. I hope to one day be a part of a movement where we are respected as equals by workers of all trades, and where all unions back our fight for rights, safety and autonomy, just as we support theirs.

National Forum Sydney 2017

The National Forum is an important and unique opportunity for sex workers to come together annually to discuss emerging trends and key issues for sex workers around Australia. The 2017 Scarlet Alliance National Forum was our biggest one yet! We had a record 114 attendees over three days on Gadigal Land in Sydney, including individual sex workers, peer educators, and delegates from sex worker organisations across Australia.

Session highlights included various panels, consultations, and knowledge-sharing workshops on a variety of topics including Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander sex workers, peer education, online resources, history of sex worker rights advocacy, and organising as activists! The traditional smoking ceremony performed by Indigenous sistergirls, the Red Umbrella Rally in support of migrant sex workers, and the party held together with SWOP NSW all added to a memorable experience. A forum evaluation report was produced for executive committee to inform future forum coordination.

Scarlet Alliance E-Newsletters

Following feedback from our membership, we have increased the number of E-newsletters to four issues per year in order to prevent the emails from becoming too dense. Alongside the communication of the work and activities of Scarlet Alliance, we've also dedicated one newsletter every year to announcing the newly elected Scarlet Alliance Executive Committee. Along with an image, their name and role, each Executive member creates a brief bio to introduce themselves to the membership.

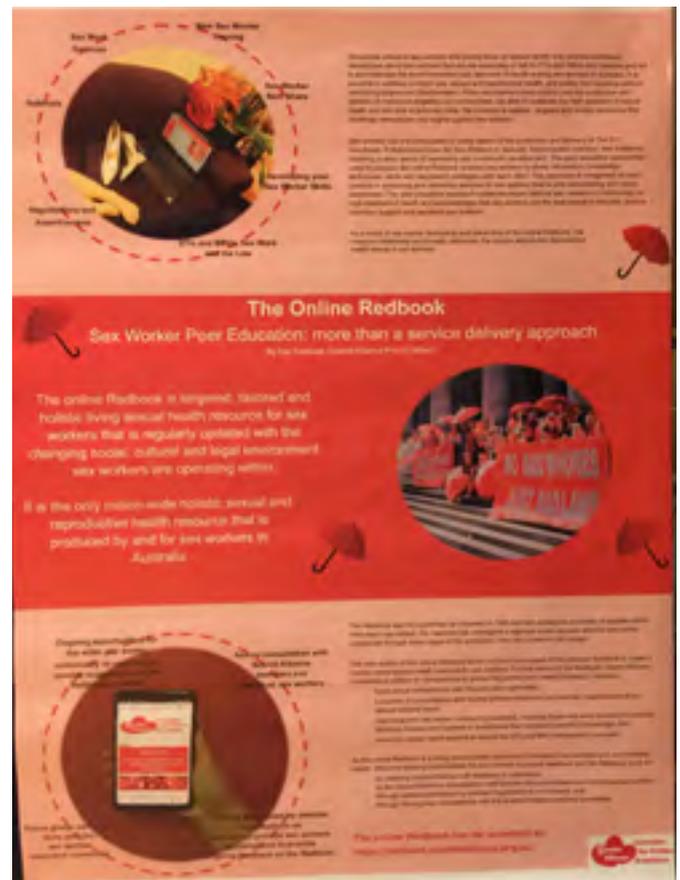
POLICY PROJECT

The last year for the Scarlet Alliance Policy Project has been an exciting and busy time, as usual. Together with the Scarlet Alliance Staff, Executive Committee and our members, Scarlet Alliance finally launched the long awaited online version of the Redbook – BBV and STI Resources By and For Sex Workers. Scarlet Alliance is planning regular updates and reviews of the online Redbook to ensure that it continues to be a community-led living resource that is up to date and relevant for sex workers.

Scarlet Alliance was also excited to announce the release of our 2018-2020 Scarlet Alliance Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan was reviewed and updated upon extensive and numerous consultations with our members. Overall, the consultation highlighted that our members continue to find Scarlet Alliance’s work impactful and significant to the sex worker rights movement.

This year the Policy Officer presented posters at the 2018 AIDS Conference in Amsterdam and the 2018 Asia Pacific HIV&AIDS conference in Sydney. The poster for the 2018 AIDS Conference in Amsterdam highlighted the results of consultations conducted by the Policy Project in 2017 with peer educators and individual sex workers in Australia on the implications of HIV self-testing for sex workers. The poster also highlighted the conditions necessary to ensure sex workers benefit from the introduction of HIVST. The poster for the Asia Pacific HIV&AIDS conference highlighted the use of sex worker community development approaches to produce a national online Redbook to holistically address the wide-ranging needs of sex workers in relation to BBV and STIs.

In June 2018, the Policy Project produced and distributed an information paper on My Health Records (MHR). The information paper highlighted the potential benefits and drawbacks of MHR to ensure sex workers were informed in their decision to opt-out or allow the automatic creation of a MHR during the opt-out period. Scarlet Alliance in partnership with SWOP also ran a community information session on *Stop Enabling Sex Trafficking Act/Fight Online Sex Trafficking Act (SESTA/FOSTA)*. Leading up the panel, the Policy Project produced a policy brief on the laws and its potential implications on sex workers. The SESTA/FOSTA policy brief was presented to sex workers at the information session.





The Policy Officer had the opportunity this year to present a webinar to frontline legal workers on best practice approaches to working with sex workers. This webinar focused on outlining the laws impacting sex workers and the need for respectful, non-judgemental and peer-led services.

Scarlet Alliance was heavily involved in the reviewing and updating of the National Hepatitis B and C, Sexually Transmissible Infections, HIV and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander BBV and STI Strategies. The consultations provided sex workers an important opportunity to advocate for sex worker rights in Australia's national BBV and STI strategies.

In the last year, Scarlet Alliance submitted into a number of relevant inquiries and consultations, including:

- The Convention to Eliminate all forms of Discrimination Against Women's (CEDAW) shadow report
- Review of *My Health Records Amendment (Strengthening Privacy) Bill 2018*
- The West Australian Ministerial Review of State Industrial Relations System
- Inquiry into the Status of the Human Right to Freedom of Religion or Belief
- The Northern Territory Modernisation of the *Anti-Discrimination Act*
- Review of ACT's *Sex Work Act 1992*

The Policy Officer is currently working on producing a submission for the federal Data Sharing and Release Legislation consultations which is anticipated to have significant impacts on sex workers data privacy.

In May 2018, the Policy Officer along with the Trans Rep, Male Rep, CEO and Scarlet Alliance Australian Federation of AIDS Organisation (AFAO) delegate attended the AFAO members meeting. The Policy Officer presented on the negative impacts of criminalisation of sex workers with HIV. The Policy Officer was also part of AFAO's members meeting organising committee to ensure the meeting prioritised community interests into the planning of the agenda.

Also in May, the Policy Officer along with the Scarlet Alliance and SWOP team attended the May Day March in Sydney. The March was well attended with union members and supporters marching alongside sex workers chanting support for sex workers' labour rights.

In April 2018, the Policy Project worked with the Vixen collective in their campaign against the Nordic Model in Victoria. The Policy Project compiled a policy brief on the current research on Nordic Model. The Policy Project also worked with the Sex Industry Network (SIN), SWOP NT, Magenta and SWOP ACT in their campaigns for law reforms in their respective states.

TASMANIAN PROJECT

Scarlet Alliance's Tasmanian Sex Worker Project (the Project) experienced a year of many changes and challenges, and despite ongoing funding difficulties, has managed to continue providing much needed services, information, support and advocacy for hundreds of sex workers.

Tasmania is the only state or territory without a funded sex worker organisation. The rest of Australia has heeded sex worker recommendations since the 1980s to act on evidence based best practise and fund state based sex worker organisations and Tasmanian sex workers are active in calling on our government to do the same. The Project seeks to address the gaps in services and peer representation for sex workers in this state.

In December 2017, the 12 month funding period from the Solicitors' Guarantee Fund (SGF) came to an end and the Project secured another small amount of funding from the same source - just enough to keep the doors open for another six months and to lobby the DHHS to take responsibility for the health and wellbeing of marginalised communities.



In the 17/18 period, the SGF grants, with their justice focus, allowed the Project to pursue an number of activities, including:

The creation of a resource outlining options for sex workers who have experienced crime in Tasmania. The Project identified many barriers for sex workers in reporting crime and accessing justice services. Staff worked closely with sex workers the Tasmanian Police Sex Worker Liaison Officer to explore a range of options and ensure that people working in Tasmania are aware of our rights and ways in which to protect our privacy when engaging with police and other services.

Educating non sex worker Tasmanians. The Project held two information stalls at Burnie and Launceston UTas campus', and a stall at the annual Pride March, to address myths and stereotypes and educate people around ways to be a better ally to sex workers. A resource on how to be a good ally to sex workers has also been produced and distributed around the state.

Participation in interagency working groups to ensure a strong sex worker voice in the development of future policy implementation and Strategic Frameworks

Outreach services, information and support delivered to hundreds of sex workers throughout Tasmania and to FIFO workers intending to work here. This includes visits to workplaces, staffing a drop in space, hosting social gatherings and skills shares.

Steering Committee the Project is informed and guided by the community it serves.

In September 2017 Jade, who had been with the Project for over eight years, including six years as Project Coordinator, resigned to pursue another career, and Lisa, the outreach worker, began acting as Coordinator. In July of this year Jade tragically passed away.



Sex workers gathered at wakes in Tasmania, Melbourne and Amsterdam to grieve and celebrate the life of a friend, colleague and committed activist. Jade devoted incredible energy to fighting for sex worker fights. As well as actively influencing policy, she showed great strength in taking the Family Protection Society to Anti Discrimination to force them to cease their repulsive "prostitution destroys families" ad in the Mercury. Jade was not shy to stand up and challenge NorMAC at forums, putting her community before her own safety by calling them out for endangering and attempting to silence sex workers in Tasmania. Because of Jade, we live in a better world, with a little more justice. Her legacy will not be forgotten.

In June 2018 the Project was thrilled to welcome Megan to the role of Peer Education Outreach Officer. Despite only having enough funding for eight hours a week, Megan provides outreach services throughout the whole of Tasmania, and brings invaluable experience from her previous roles in peer organisations including Friends Frangipani in PNG. Her passion for sex worker rights and sense of fairness is invigorating.

During the second half of 2018, when Project funding was again looking dire, Lisa and Jules worked to secure future funding from the Tasmanian DHHS. We

have now been funded by DHHS to conduct a statewide sex worker Needs Assessment. A six month project, the outcomes will inform planning, policy and future service delivery to sex workers in Tasmania. The Needs Assessment will identify unmet health and health care needs and gaps for sex workers and provide recommendations for meeting these unmet needs. As well as providing valuable information to service providers, the Needs Assessment will also have multiple benefits for the future of the health and well being of Tasmanian sex workers, including building the capacity of the Tasmanian Project and supporting the Tasmanian Government to deliver on its commitments to marginalised communities.

So the Project has lived to fight another day, and in the next six months, as well as delivering on its funding commitments, will continue to provide outreach services and advocate for the rights of sex workers in Tasmania.



SANTAP PROJECT

In early 2018, Kali Kanivale stepped into the role as the Scarlet Alliance National Online Training and Assessment Program (SANTAP) Coordinator. The SANTAP project runs once a week on Thursday.

This year, the SANTAP Coordinator continued to enrol new participants into the Scarlet Alliance Peer Educator Online Training. Many of the participants are excitedly working their way through the training and are been provided with prompt and informative feedback.

Following on from the previous SANTAP Coordinator's consultation with the Scarlet Alliance membership at the 2017 National Forum in Sydney, the SANTAP Coordinator has focused on updating the online training content. The 2017 National Consultation identified a number of areas where the online training required updating, including a need to update content in line with technological developments such as how technology can be utilised for peer education and outreach. A second consultation survey is in the process of being drafted to provide a wider peer educator audience an opportunity to review and provide feedback on the online training. In the meantime, the SANTAP Coordinator has been maintaining and updating the online training to ensure accuracy and relevance of content.

The SANTAP Coordinator also focused on negotiating and securing a partnership with a Registered Training Organisation (RTO) to undertake the Diploma of Community Development Recognition process. For Scarlet Alliance, the process of partnering with an appropriate RTO involves ensuring the RTO recognises and are able to uphold peer education values and principles. The SANTAP Coordinator has undertaken an extensive process to ensure an appropriate RTO is sourced to partner with, who understand and value our sex worker peer



Kali Kanivale, SANTAP Coordinator

community driven principles to assessment. The search for an appropriate RTO continues, however the SANTAP Coordinator remains confident that we will find an appropriate RTO to partner with and continue providing sex workers with an avenue to have their peer education skills formally recognised.

With the arrival of the new criteria for the Diploma of Community Development, the SANTAP Project has dedicated this year to updating all the supporting documents for the Diploma of Community Development Recognition of Prior Learning Process, including the Assessment guide and tools. Building on from the previous SANTAP Coordinator's consultation with our previous RTO and the Assessors Network, the Diploma of Community Development Assessment tool has undergone a significant update to meet the new criteria of the updated Diploma of Community Development. Different to the previous criteria of the Diploma, the new criteria require that applicants provide specific types and amounts of evidence to achieve the Diploma. The Assessment Tool is still in the drafting process and is undergoing review by the Assessor's Network for comment.

**MEMBER
ORGANISATION
REPORTS**



DEBBY DOESN'T DO IT FOR FREE

National

Debby Doesn't Do It For Free is an intergenerational arts and performance collective, formed in 2002, with over 60 sex worker members. We present artwork and performance - a self proclaimed 'whoretastic', loud, proud & playful expression of Australian sex worker culture - exploring political, sexual, historical and everyday aspects of sex work.

Since our life drawing session and presentations at the 2017 Sydney National Forum, the Debby's have joined up new members, produced new art and merchandise, presented workshops (Mous Magazine) and contributed to public sex work discourse through our website and social media.

The Debby's have just returned from the Amsterdam AIDS2018 conference where our exhibition documented 16 years of our artwork and performance in a collage styled 10m long wall. 'Ask a Sex Worker a Question' sessions at our marketplace booth were once again very successful with a broad range of questions, about the Debby's, our art, sex worker activism etc. Our merchandise stall was also very successful, selling all our bags, t-shirts and postcards (all produced by Debbys) helping to raise the profile of sex worker issues.

Debby members also participated in the sex worker film presentation and were on stage with the Sex Workers Opera in protesting the location of the AIDS2020 conference in San Francisco. Some of our artwork is now on show at the Red Umbrella Fund office in Amsterdam, and at the SWOP office in Sydney.

Website: www.debbydoesntdoitforfree.com

Instagram: [@debbydoesntdoitforfree](https://www.instagram.com/debbydoesntdoitforfree)

Twitter: [@thedebbys](https://twitter.com/thedebbys)

Facebook: [facebook.com/debbydoesntdoitforfree](https://www.facebook.com/debbydoesntdoitforfree)



RESPECT INC

Queensland

Respect Inc is an out, proud, autonomous peer sex worker organisation in Queensland. Our members, staff and management are all sex workers.

Respect formed in 2008, which means we are now a decade old!

We have four offices: Gold Coast, Brisbane, Townsville and Cairns. Respect also do outreach to suburban centers, regional and rural locations throughout the state.

This last twelve months we have focused on:

- Peer Education
- Strategic Plan Update
- Policies & Procedures Update
- Decrim campaign
- Regional and remote outreach
- Asian Focus peer education
- Resource Review
- Youth Project, Hey Hustler
- Career Development peer education
- Workshop program across the whole state, Work It

The main event of our calendar year is the 'Respect Round Table.' Its free for all sex workers to attend. Key topics in 2018 were: improved race relations, rural and regional outreach, migrant sex workers, advertising changes, decriminalisation, and training for improved electronic promotions and new cloud drives.



SIN

South Australia

As of November 2017 SIN is an independent incorporated body! Together with our board, we are working towards being fully autonomous by the 31st of December. This is pretty exciting as it means we will have achieved our long term mission of becoming a completely South Australian sex worker lead and operated organisation.

When the new South Australian Liberal government came into power in March, the Bill for decriminalisation which had passed the Upper House of South Australia last year, had to be re-tabled. The Bill has already been reintroduced and the second reading is currently under debate.

This year SIN has run successful health initiatives and developed opportunistic sex work education. We are working with the Anti-Poverty Network to support peers navigating the welfare system and have created new small business training. SIN has also co-written a new policy for two RSL age care facilities which mandates all staff to facilitate the hiring a sex worker for residents where requested. This has now been implemented across all RSL staff and is a condition of their employment.

On a global level, our darling trans project worker, Heather, was appointed as a national consultant by the Global Network of Sex Work Projects (NSWP) to undertake interviews and write a case study on homophobia and transphobia in the sex industry. The case study will be used to inform an international briefing paper on the topic.

All in all it's been another massive year for SIN and the broader sex worker community of South Australia.



SWEAR WA

Western Australia

SWEAR (previously known as People For Sex Worker Rights WA) has undergone several massive changes in the past year. Our long-standing President and one of the founding members of SWEAR, Renai, has left to pursue a career in mental health, and as a result we have gone through a complete restructure and rebrand, with an all-new committee.

In the wake of FOSTA/SESTA, focus has shifted from lobbying for decriminalization to peer support, both online and in person, and we have worked closely with Magenta to organize more regular social gatherings and workshops to help support each other during this time.

Our male rep, Damien, continues to hold the extremely successful and well-attended male social group events every month, providing a safe place for male workers to support each other and relax without fear of judgement.

Reaching out to parlour workers who might be intimidated to approach a non-peer organization like Magenta for support and education, as well as migrant workers and rural workers, is going to be one of our priorities moving forward.

We have also recently welcomed into our committee an indigenous representative, Rachel, and are currently looking for ways to better serve the indigenous sex-worker community.

In the coming months we will be organizing a public campaign for decriminalization for End Violence Against Sex Workers day. Our opinion is that of raising awareness within the greater community to create a greater social pressure for change, before we approach government officials, will be an effective strategy. To do this we are reaching out to various publications for interviews and feature articles, and funding a poster campaign across the city.

Keeping a less formal approach to peer support and education, as well as marketing ourselves online and networking with complementary organisations in other industries, we hope to become an authority in our field.



SWOP ACT

Australian Capital Territory

SWOP ACT has had a very productive year!

Finally we have had some movement on the Recommendations that were handed down in 2011. It has taken a long time and a lot of effort but finally some changes. Not all of the recommendations were tabled but some of the most important ones were. The proposed changes include: changing the name of the Prostitution Act to the Sex Work Act and the language in the Act from prostitute and prostitution to sex work and sex worker; being HIV+ sex worker in the ACT and that includes HIV+ clients; not having to register as a sole operator (a private worker); brothel owners HAVE to supply safe sex products to workers and absolute liability to brothel owners in regards to underage workers.

There has been some concern from workers around HIV+ sex workers and clients. SWOP ACT believes this is due to a lack of awareness around advances in effective treatment of HIV and treatment as prevention. SWOP ACT is developing resources to increase sex worker awareness around HIV. SWOP ACT with the support of Scarlet Alliance continues to lobby for further changes to sex work legislation. This lobbying and advocacy effort is centred around worker safety and includes allowing more than one worker to operate from the same private premise. This is going to be a challenge as the committee was extremely divided in the discussion around 2 or more workers working together. The police were the main voice on not wanting this to happen.



SWOP NSW

New South Wales

In pursuit of our goal's over the last reporting year SWOP had 5779 significant interactions with sex industry workers, including supporting 460 new or inexperienced sex workers and visiting 455 sex services premises.

Social media outreach reach continued high growth and we completed the upgrade of our website with our online resources being downloaded 4861 times with an additional 49,191 printed resources, including 9 new resources.

SWOP made 49 outreach visits to rural areas and worked in partnership to deliver state-wide outreach with 19 different sexual health clinics and organisations, and provided training to 174 service providers from 51 different organisations.

We continue to build SWOP's reputation as the leading voice on sex worker issues in NSW by attending 17 conferences, and delivering presentations at 11. We fought for positive structural change on 14 advisory committees and 12 interagency groups. We contributed to evidence based research about sex workers on 8 different research committees and projects, and made 41 submissions to decision makers, regulatory authorities and media.

With the last quarter of the reporting period severely impacted by US anti-sex work legislation FOSTA/SESTA, SWOP embraced its ability to be flexible and adaptable in a rapidly changing online environment. We produced a Briefing Paper for sex workers, ran a forum with 65 attendees, and two workshops, skill sharing with NSW sex workers digital savvy ways to work within this new global environment. SWOP notes and pays tribute to the strength, response and resilience of the sex worker communities at this time and to the leadership, innovation and united response of sex worker communities at this time.



SWOP NT

Northern Territory

SWOP NT is a member of the Scarlet Alliance Sex Workers Association. We are located in Darwin as a Program of the Northern Territory AIDS & Hepatitis Council (NTAHC).

SWOPs' service delivery connects us as sex workers to each other via peer education, health promotion, advocacy, outreach and broader programming that addresses holistic health issues.

Sex workers who access SWOP NT share and gain skilled knowledge of: the Territory's legislative framework for sex work with peer strategies & Work Health & Safety (WHS) resources;

- safer sex supplies & information that includes the prevention, referral and treatment of blood borne viruses (BBVs) and sexually transmissible infections (STIs);

- the Sex Worker Reference Group (SWRG) meetings, legal working party; Scarlet Alliance membership and national forum;

- engaging with SWOP NT to co-deliver presentations to stakeholders.

Sex workers in the NT are challenged by restrictive legislation that stipulates:

- agency workers are required to register with police for life;

- private sex workers must work alone out of hotels.;

- sex workers who do not register with police who work under an unregistered agency, or who work with another privately in a hotel room or other accommodation and or from the street are criminalised.

SWOP NT advocates for the full decriminalisation of sex work and the implementation of decent work protections. We believe that abolishing the Northern Territory Prostitution Regulation Act, developing a Charter of Human Rights, WHS guidelines and amending the NT Anti-Discrimination Act will ensure the Industrial and human rights of sex workers are realised.



VIXEN COLLECTIVE

Victoria

In 2017/18 Vixen continued our campaign for full decriminalisation of sex work in Victoria. This campaign includes protests of the Victorian Greens decision to run anti sex work candidate Kathleen Maltzahn. In April the Liberals passed 'Motion 18' in support of the Nordic Model of sex work criminalisation, this led to an extensive campaign by Vixen Collective and Scarlet Alliance, with Leader of the Parliamentary Liberal Party, Matthew Guy, subsequently stating the party has 'no plan to adopt the Nordic Model'. After campaigning and collaborative work by Vixen, the Victorian Labor Party adopted the full decriminalisation of sex work to their policy platform in May 2018.

Vixen continues an active and ongoing process of community consultation, which included consultation regarding Salvation Army brothel outreach which attracted community protest over its' support for sex work criminalisation.

Increasing police activity, including renewed focus on massage parlours and private workers, has been exacerbated by pressure from owners and operators of adult industry business running an "illegal brothels" campaign, as well as local council and anti sex work groups calling for police raids. This activity results in a deteriorating relationship between sex workers and police, as well as deterring sex workers reporting crimes committed against us.

Vixen Collective provided sex worker speakers for a range of events including the sixth annual BBV & STI Sector Forum, as well as testifying at the hearing for 'Inquiry into Establishing a Modern Slavery Act in Australia'.

Vixen Collective continues to run on the volunteer labour of local sex workers, with no funding. We conduct a range of work including peer support, peer education, advocacy in media and to government, as well as coordinating with allied organisations. We recognise sex workers and allies at a state and national level, in supporting our work. We highlight the need for a funded peer sex worker service in Victoria, to expand capacity and extend services that support the rights, health and safety of Victorian sex workers.

**ASSOCIATE
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MAGENTA

Western Australia

Magenta continues to provide free and anonymous clinical services, education, peer support and outreach services to sex workers in Western Australia. Sex workers continue to access the service for various referral pathways particularly for advice around working safely, legislation, and for information around taxation.

During this period, Magenta negotiated continued funding from the Sexual Health and Blood Borne Virus Program within WA's Dept. of Health for a minimum of a further 3 years. Additionally, following a number of staffing changes Magenta hired 3 new educators and commenced a new Manager over the past year. These changes have prompted reviews of the project's service delivery, and should inform new activities for engaging with local sex workers.

In response to Backpage's closure causing many Australian sex workers to lose work and job security, Magenta refocused on providing face to face support to sex workers in the community and increased the projects' efforts to reach sex workers. Trends within the Australian and WA Sex industry continue to inform Magenta's service delivery.



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 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: Continued operations of our national referral list, connecting people with disability and sex workers; consultation and advocacy with New South Wales and South Australian State Governments and presentations at conferences and universities.

A key outcome this year is the development of a new image base communication book for people with disability, made possible by a grant from FundAbility Northcott (funded by the NSW Department of Family and Community Services.) Many thanks to the sex workers and people with disability who were a part of the development and focus testing of this new resource.

Getting in touch with Touching Base:

Email: info@touchingbase.org (preferred)

Website: www.touchingbase.org

Facebook: facebook.com/TouchingBaseInc

Twitter: [@TouchingBaseInc](https://twitter.com/TouchingBaseInc)

Mobile: 0424 591 409

FINANCIAL REPORTS

TREASURER REPORT

For the year ended 30th June, 2018

Scarlet Alliance's Income and Expenditure was maintained at a similar level to the previous year, despite commencing the year with funding uncertainty across many of the areas of our work, and with a range of factors implying that funding for some activities would cease.

Our reports show \$1,028,234 came into Income, most from Grants for activity contracts with the Australian Government and State government health departments. The main contract with Department of Health that ended this financial year has been secured for a further two years through until 2020, fixed at \$300,000 annually. Despite being the same dollar amount, this is, in fact, a reduced amount on previous year's funding as ongoing CPI and wages increments must be absorbed. Other revenue was gained from professional services, such as delivering trainings, representation, and presentations.

It should be noted that more than half of the income and expenditure relates to funding for state based services in Tasmania \$83,391 and South Australia \$505,195. The auspicing of member organisations to support their progress to independence is an important aspect of Scarlet Alliance's work and in line with the priorities in our new Strategic Plan 2018-2020. However it can make Scarlet Alliance's income and expenditure seem much greater. Although the income and expenditure for SIN and Tasmanian Sex Worker Project appear in our financial reports and are managed through Scarlet Alliance's financial management systems, they are for the state based services, not for the national peak organisation work of Scarlet Alliance.

Expenditure of \$1,024,359 was managed through budgeting and implementation of

budgets and controls by the CEO and staff team.

The Financial Position at June 20 2018 shows \$3,875 in retained earnings this year, with the overall equity of Scarlet Alliance slightly improved to \$658,700.

During this period funding for the Tasmanian project was under negotiation with the Tasmanian Department of Health and Human Services and was agreed to commence as a Needs Assessment in July 2018 for a 6-month period, currently held in grants in advance. The ongoing uncertainty for funding of the Tasmanian Sex worker Project beyond the 6 month period remains a major concern for the delivery of peer education and support for sex workers in Tasmania.

This year we engaged a new auditor, Wei Roy Chong, and, although the process was different from that of previous years, with the first audit with a change of auditor meaning the organisation is subject to greater scrutiny, the audit was conducted smoothly. We acknowledge this was a challenging time in our financial management, as the previous long term staff left their role, and the incoming staff took on handover, learning and development and preparation for their first audit. The CEO, Finance Officer, the Treasurer Double and the Executive are to be congratulated on achieving this outcome, with reports delivered on time to the AGM.

The Auditors report shows Scarlet Alliance to be a viable entity at June 30 2018, 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