

ANNUAL REPORT 2020-21





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 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 year's 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.

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 firsthand 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.



VALUES & MISSION STATEMENT

Through its objectives, policies and programs, Scarlet Alliance works to advance Sex Worker Rights with the achievement of equality and social, legal, political, cultural, health and economic justice for past and present workers in the sex industry to enable sex workers to be self-determining agents, build our own alliances and choose where and how we live and work. The membership as a whole is the highest decision-making body of Scarlet Alliance.

PURPOSES & PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY

Scarlet Alliance's purposes are to:

1. advance the health of past and present sex workers
2. promote and protect the human rights of past and present sex workers
3. promote respect for sex workers and end all forms of discrimination against sex workers

Scarlet Alliance's principal activity is health promotion for sex workers by, without limitation:

- a. Working to guarantee the right of all sex workers to optimum occupational health and safety, including general health knowledge and safe work practices
- b. Actively promoting the right of all sex workers to work in whatever area of their chosen occupation, including street, brothel, escort, private and opportunistic work
- c. Enhancing the capacity of sex workers to be politically active, advance their rights, and build networks and organisations
- d. Playing an active role in Australia's response to HIV/AIDS, blood borne viruses and sexually transmitted infections, including peer education and harm reduction strategies for sex workers
- e. Disseminating sex industry related information
- f. Providing training and education on issues relating to the Australian sex industry and migration of sex workers into Australia
- g. Lobbying for supportive legal, policy and administrative frameworks which do not discriminate against sex workers
- h. Challenging any government, legislation, regulations, rules, policies, processes or law enforcement practices which are discriminatory, repressive or fail to promote the rights and autonomy of sex workers
- i. Eradicating sex worker stereotypes and stigmatisation in the sex work community as well as the broader community
- j. Communicating the diversity of ideas, opinions and aspirations of past and present sex workers
- k. Collaborating with international and local Sex Worker Rights groups that align with the Aims and Objectives of Scarlet Alliance

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

2021 has marked an important year for the Scarlet Alliance Executive with the culmination of many years of hard work on several key documents for Scarlet governance. 2021 also marked our second year of conducting business remotely and adapting to work with the challenges of COVID-19. For many of us, it was our second year working as a team and we felt the disappointment of not being able to come together in person. Despite this, we are proud of what we have been able to accomplish and of the culture of community care and support we have created together.

This year we sadly lost friend and ally Jude Byrne. Jude was a long-standing peer advocate for people who use drugs and a contributor to the collaboration between the drug user and sex worker movements. Vale Jude, and all those we have lost in our communities this year.

2021 has seen the need for a continuation of the Emergency Relief Fund with many jurisdictions around Australia experiencing periodic or extended lockdowns. From 3 June 2021 to 23 September 2021, 839 payments (\$107,780) have been distributed to sex workers affected by COVID-19 restrictions. This ongoing and essential work has been made possible by the National Cabinet of Whores, Scarlet Alliance and member organisation staff and volunteers who have assisted with verifying applicants, translating applications, and administering the funds as the pandemic has dragged on and on. 100% of the money raised through this fund continues to be paid out to sex workers in need.

In the midst of this ongoing crisis, we have worked hard to update and finalise two of our



key governing documents: the Constitution and the 2021-2025 Strategic Plan. On May 27, the new constitution was approved by membership at a Special General Meeting. The 2021 Scarlet Alliance Constitution was officially accepted by Access Canberra in September without revision and uploaded by the ACNC, marking the end of a constitutional review process that began in 2018. This would not have been possible without the work of previous Executives and Representatives, and the input and feedback of members over several rounds of community consultation. This is a huge achievement. We are grateful to Herbert Smith Freehills for their pro bono legal support. We would especially like to thank Jules, Mish, Queenie, Eva, Janelle, Maria and Gala for the time and energy they contributed throughout the development of the constitution, and the members of the 2021 Executive Committee who put many hours



into the work this year. We would also like to thank Leanne, Elena, and Dylan for serving on the 2021 Constitutional Review Working Group as representatives of their respective organisations. This document was truly a community effort.

As we write this, the 2021-2025 Strategic Plan is with membership in its final round of consultation. This document also reflects several years of hard work behind the scenes and countless contributions of ideas and feedback from community. As a result of feedback received during the initial round of consultations, we decided to make a dramatic change to the existing structure of Scarlet’s strategic plan. We also sought training to build our capacity to develop and implement a strategic plan. This made for a greater workload, but has resulted in a document that we are excited to hand over to the incoming 2022 Executive Committee to guide their work. This document reflects the history of our movement and our organisation, the values that drive us, our commitment to an anti-oppressive politics, and the areas where we would like to grow.

2021 also saw the long-awaited release of a briefing paper on decriminalisation. This short paper describes clearly what full decriminalisation does and does not include. The paper makes clear that crucial groups of sex workers in NZ and NSW remain excluded and criminalised. It will be used to support law reform campaigns across Australia and ensure that there is clarity around what sex

workers want from sex work law reform. A briefing paper focused on anti-discrimination reform is up next!

Campaigns for the decriminalisation of sex work continue across Australia. This year saw a commitment from the Victorian government to decriminalise sex work following last year’s review. Scarlet Alliance and Vixen Collective have worked closely this year to ensure that sex workers shape the decriminalisation process and that Victoria meets its commitment to FULL decriminalisation. This work continues as we write this. In Queensland, the Attorney General has now announced a commitment to review and draft legislation for decriminalising sex work. Both Scarlet Alliance and Respect Inc. have been recognised as key stakeholders in the terms of reference for this review.

Scarlet Alliance, along with our members and wider community, mobilised a substantial campaign against the Online Safety Bill 2021, including supporting sex workers to make their own submissions. Despite the strong efforts of our community and digital rights activists around Australia, we were disheartened to see this bill pass without taking into consideration the concerns raised about the impacts of the proposed reforms on our already vulnerable communities. Scarlet Alliance is engaged in ongoing advocacy with the eSafety Commissioner to ensure our voices are heard in the implementation of this bill and to minimise potential harms.



Opportunities for in-person community events and representation were again scarce this year. However, Acting President Fox joined Lena Van Hale of Magenta on an online panel in September for the Australian Medical Students Association. This panel aimed at building awareness around sex work for future medical practitioners and dismantling sex work stigma. Earlier this year, in a brief interlude between lockdowns for many of us, sex workers were able to come together in Sydney for Mardi Gras. This year saw an important community conversation about police presence in the parade. After a close decision by the Mardi Gras board to allow police to continue to march, the Pride in Protest collective organised a separate protest march. The Executive consulted with community about this issue and based on the feedback received chose to withdraw from the official parade and organise a 'sex workers and allies' section of the Pride in Protest march. Pride in Protest outlined a number of demands including the full decriminalisation of sex work. We want to thank Chair of the Scarlet Alliance Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sex Worker Advisory Group, Rosa Curtis, for her powerful speech at this event.

We are also excited to have welcomed new members of staff in 2021, Policy Officers Leila and [REDACTED], and SANTAP Officer Ari. Several of our staff have been through incredibly difficult times over the past year and in particular Exec would like to convey our best wishes for a speedy recovery to our Admin Officer Katie Winton. We are lucky to have had Tish Sparkle

to step into the Admin role temporarily and the consistent and ongoing support of Mish Glitter Pony. As always, we thank Jules for her tireless work for the organisation and for the knowledge and insight she offers to the Executive at every step of the way.

The Executive would like to thank the previous and elected President Tia for their incredibly hard work keeping us all together and on track, which they continue to do as General Member. Thank you also to Fox for stepping up as Acting President midway through the term. Amidst changing capacities, lockdowns and role-shuffling, we managed to support each other and grow together as a team. We want to thank every member of the Executive for their skill, kindness, effort, humility, and dedication - Bec, Jenna, Danielle, Frankie, and Sienna, and to our doubles for stepping up where they can.

The sex worker community as a whole continues to show tremendous strength, creativity, responsibility, and care in this time of profound uncertainty. We are grateful to every member of our community for their contributions to this movement.



CEO REPORT

JULES KIM

2021 was a challenging year for so many of us and it was a year where we saw our community again rise up to support each other. It was another big year for law reform with the progress towards decriminalisation and the recognition of sex worker rights building throughout Australia. And it was another massive year for Scarlet Alliance, assisted by increased funding from the Commonwealth Department of Health enabling much needed increases to staffing and capacity.

Through this funding we were able to restore much needed middle management that has been absent for a number of years due to funding constraints for Scarlet Alliance with the employment of National Programs Manager Gala Vanting in September 2020. Our administration and policy capacity was enhanced from 2 days per week to 4 days per week with employment of Admin Officer, Katie Winten and 2 part time policy staff [REDACTED] and Leila Nippard. This year we had a significant change over of staff with the departure of Kali Karnivale and Zahra Stardust from SANTP and Policy roles and Lisa Lupa from the Tasmanian Sex Worker Project. I want to thank them for their work and contribution to Scarlet Alliance. With their departure leaving a big gap, we were fortunate to be able to employ a strong team of new staff, including Ari in the SANTP role and Andrew Mitchell as the Tasmanian Coordinator. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Miya and Lols for their ongoing commitment and work with Scarlet Alliance and to Mish Pony and Tish Sparkle for reliably stepping up and filling in when we have had unexpected gaps in staffing.

We were unable to secure funding to reinstate the Migrant Sex Worker Project but will

continue to explore avenues to find funding to restore much needed representation, leadership, policy and support by and for migrant sex workers. Despite this substantial gap in funded work, we continue to be ably guided by both the Migrant Sex Worker Advisory Group and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sex Worker Advisory Group. Although we are not back to the size of the organisation pre-funding cuts, the increases to funding and staffing has been a much needed boost for Scarlet Alliance, strengthening our capacity to deliver by and for the sex worker community.

The unprecedented challenges that arose last year due to COVID-19 seemed to be coming to an end earlier this year. What we had all hoped was a passing phase turned out to be a pandemic that we have had to adapt to living with. For many of us particularly in the eastern states of Australia we were subject to extended lockdowns and restrictions on our work. Victoria was subject to the longest period of lockdowns in the world and as I write this report we are only just emerging from long periods of lockdown in NSW, Victoria and ACT. Sex workers continued to employ harm reduction strategies throughout the pandemic and despite the presence of highly infectious delta variant there is still no evidence of transmission occurring through sex work. Sex workers throughout Australia have yet again demonstrated our positive and proactive responses to managing public health risks. The emerging challenge for sex workers is the need to provide identifying proof of vaccine certificates in order to work in a number of jurisdictions and advocacy is continuing to ensure protection of sex workers privacy and safety.

The COVID-19 Emergency Relief Fund that



closed in December 2020 with all states and territories back to work had to be restarted in June 2021 when lockdowns again commenced. Scarlet Alliance and member organisation staff, exec and volunteers tirelessly recommenced this difficult work. CALD peer educators from our member organisations each week back translated applications, and alongside other peer educators contacted applicants to verify and provide peer support and referrals. Representatives from each state and territory member organisation and Scarlet Alliance that formed the Emergency Relief Fund Sub-Committee re-commenced the difficult task of meeting weekly to review applications. And yet again community members and allies stepped up to fundraise, donate and provide much needed financial assistance to sex workers in need. Between 3rd June 2021 and 25th October 2021 we raised \$110,929.94 and made 944 payments to sex workers totalling \$123,480.00.

The National Cabinet of Whores with representatives from each of our state and territory member organisations and Scarlet Alliance also continued to meet, coordinate, strategise and advocate on COVID-19 responses, including access to vaccines, return to work plans and roadmaps. The NCW have continued to collaborate to produce resources, translations and statements. The strength in collaboration with our members has demonstrated the necessity of sex workers providing leadership to respond to the many challenges for our community this year.

It has been an incredibly eventful year for law reform driven by longstanding sex worker led campaigns for reform supported by Scarlet Alliance. With the advent of decriminalisation in Northern Territory last year, work has

continued for SWOP NT and their Sex Worker Reference Group to ensure the reforms are effectively communicated and implemented. In August this year, after years of effective advocacy by DecrimQLD and Respect Inc, the Queensland Government announced that the decriminalisation of sex work had been referred to the Queensland Law Reform Commission for review and drafting of legislation, with Respect Inc and Scarlet Alliance named as key stakeholders in the terms of reference. In Victoria following many years of advocacy by the Vixen Collective, the review into decriminalisation of sex work that commenced in 2019 resulted in a commitment by the government in August 2021 to repeal the problematic licensing framework in the Sex Work Act 1994 and to decriminalise sex work in Victoria. The Decriminalisation of Sex Work Bill 2021 has passed the lower house in October 2021 and will soon be debated in the upper house. The Bill contains many positive elements that reflect the demands that sex workers have been making for a number of years but unfortunately still retains some problematic sections that must be amended to ensure the benefits of decriminalisation can be enjoyed by all sex workers. Victorian sex workers alongside Vixen and Scarlet Alliance are actively continuing our work to advocate for the best practice model of the full decriminalisation of sex work that leaves no sex workers behind.

Sex work is still criminalised in South Australia via a range of offences contained in the Summary Offences Act 1953 (SA) and the Criminal Law Consolidation Act 1935 (SA). The legal framework around sex work in South Australia remains one of full prohibition. There has been an active sex worker led law reform campaign led by SIN underway in South



Australia for the full decriminalisation of sex work, which saw the Statutes Amendment (Decriminalisation of Sex Work) Bill introduced in 2015 and again in 2018 and devastatingly defeated in 2019. The Statutes Amendment (Repeal of Sex Work Offences) Bill 2020 is currently before the Legislative Council. However, unlike other decriminalisation efforts, this Bill only removes criminal offences related to sex work and does not consider anti-discrimination provisions or spent convictions legislation but is a critical first step in repealing criminal offences against sex workers in South Australia.

Progress has also been seen in reforms to anti-discrimination and anti-vilification provisions for sex work and sex workers. Scarlet Alliance have long been advocating for consistent, accessible anti-discrimination protections for sex workers. This advocacy has continued with review processes of anti discrimination and anti vilification legislation taking place across a number of jurisdictions.

This year through our participation in the UN PCB NGO Delegation, Scarlet Alliance was represented in the Multi Stakeholder Task Force for the High Level Meeting on HIV and AIDS at the UN General Assembly (UN HLM). Australia and Namibia capably led the difficult and at times fraught negotiations as co-chairs for the HLM resulting in significant progress on key issues in the 2021 UN Political Declaration on HIV & AIDS. The 2021 Political Declaration contains significantly strengthened language around community leadership, including resourcing and targets on commitments to support and ensure that an increased proportion of HIV services are community-led by 2025, i.e. 30% of testing

and treatment services; 80% of HIV prevention services for key populations and 60% of community led programs to support the achievement of societal enablers. The Political Declaration also commits to urgent and transformative action to end inequalities and restrictive and discriminatory laws, policies and practices, and a commitment to creating an enabling legal environment by reviewing and reforming, as needed, restrictive legal and policy frameworks including discriminatory laws and practices against people living with HIV and key populations including sex workers. These were key commitments that build on the bold and ambitious agreements of the Global AIDS Strategy with 165 member states, including Australia voting for the Political Declaration and only 4 against. This will be the last year of Scarlet Alliance's term at the UN PCB with our 3 year term that commenced in 2019 coming to an end in December 2021. We look forward to utilising these agreements in our ongoing advocacy to translate commitment into action on gender inequalities, regressive laws and discrimination.

As another year draws to a close I want to thank the Executive Committee who have led the complex work on constitutional change within Scarlet Alliance and our Strategic Plan review; staff for their ongoing commitment and hard work; our membership for your continued support, organising and guidance; and for the sex worker community who have remained mobilised and resilient in the face of ongoing adversity and never cease to inspire and direct us in stepping forward to advance sex worker leadership, health, safety and rights.



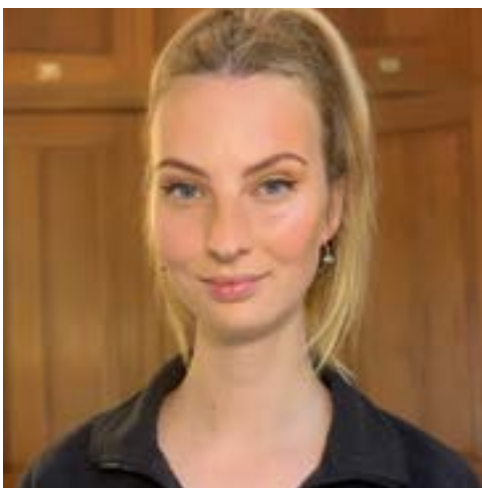
NEW STAFF MEMBERS



ARI

SANTP Officer

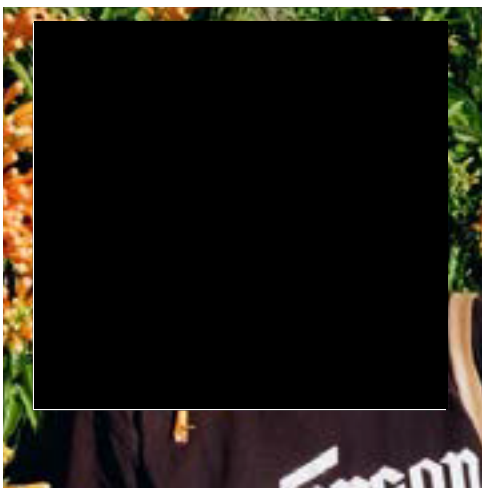
Ari is our new National Training Program Officer and a sex worker living and working on Kaurna land (Adelaide). She has been involved in sex worker rights for 20 years, previously serving on the board of both SIN and Scarlet Alliance. She is the former manager of SIN and has worked as an educator in community mental health and university settings. She has a Bachelor degree in Social Work, a Diploma in Community Development and Certificate 4 in Training and Assessment but her greatest learning comes from the amazing community leaders, activists and sex workers that she has been privileged to work alongside.



LEILA

Policy Officer

Leila is a dog loving, gardening, queer sex worker and one of the two new Policy Officers at Scarlet Alliance. She has been an ad-hoc online and sugar baby sex worker for many years, and a full service worker for the last three years. Leila is by qualification a political-economist and loves both a casual chat or deep theoretical read about sex workers' rights. At the moment when she's not working, you will find her wandering the streets on a lockdown mission to pretend she's not stuck in a tiny bedroom, or in her tiny bedroom watching DIY youtube videos.



Policy Officer

██████████ is one of the two new Policy Officers, and is also currently in her final year of studying law and social political science. She is interested in reforming sex work law, mental health and disability law and anti-discrimination law. ██████████ hopes to go into legal advocacy for sex workers, peer education about our legal rights and protest legal support when she is eventually admitted as a solicitor. Her previous job experience includes massage parlour work and legal research assistant work.



**GOVERNANCE,
LEADERSHIP &
REPRESENTATION**

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



FOX

Acting President

Fox is a sex worker from the USA currently living on Wadawurrung land in Victoria. They have been a sex worker for about eight years, including stripping, porn work, brothel work, and independent full-service sex work. This was Fox's second year on the Executive Committee. They were elected Vice President at SANF20 and stepped up to the Acting President Role this year.



BEC

Acting Vice President

Bec is a sex worker living on Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung land in Naarm/Melbourne. They have worked for several years in massage, brothels and privately and have a background in community organising, governance and communications. Bec was the elected Vice President last year and elected as a General Member at SANF20, before they stepped up as Acting Vice President this year.



DANIELLE

Treasurer

Danielle is a sex worker living on Wurundjeri, Bunurong and Yidinji land. She has been a sex worker for about 13 years including 12 years of stripping and 2 years of escorting. Danielle has done a few business units at uni including an accounting unit, and is loving the experience of being on the Executive Committee. She was elected Treasurer Double and stepped up to a General Member role last year before being elected Treasurer at SANF20.



JENNA

Secretary

Jenna is a sex worker living on Darug & Gundungurra land (Blue Mountains, NSW). She has been an independent full service sex worker for about nine years, and an adult content creator/performer for three, having also worked in brothels and massage parlours along the way. This was her second year on the Scarlet exec as Secretary, and she feels lucky for the ongoing generous education and support provided by the sex work activism community.



TIA

General Member

Tia is a sex worker living in Naarm/Melbourne. They currently work as a porn performer, full service worker and BDSM service provider and have been in the industry for eight years. This was Tia's second year on the Executive Committee and they have appreciated the opportunity to bring the knowledge and skills they developed in 2020. Tia was re-elected President at SANF20, and stepped down to the General Member role this year.



FRANKIE

General Member

Frankie is a sex worker living & working on Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung country in Naarm. They have worked in Queensland & Victoria during their 4 years in the industry, both in brothels & independently. Frankie has a background in community services & has prior governance committee experience through organised sports. This was Frankie's first year on the Executive Committee. They were elected Secretary Double but stepped up to General Member during the term.

LEADERSHIP & REPRESENTATION ACTIVITY

- Scarlet Alliance Emergency Relief Fund, ongoing
- Strategic Plan development and consultation, 2020-21
- UNAIDS PCB NGO Delegation Asia Pacific, 2020-21
- Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), 2020-21
- Advisory group for Project Officers for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, 2020-21
- Stigma Indicators sex worker survey in partnership with UNSW Centre for Social Research in Health (CSRH), 2020-21
- National Blood Borne Viruses and Sexually Transmissible Infections Standing Committee (BBVSS), 2020-21
- Ministerial Advisory Committee on Blood Borne Viruses and Sexually Transmissible Infections (MACBBVSTI), 2020-21
- APNSW Management Committee, 2020-21
- ASHM Regional Advisory Group Presents: Health and human rights for sex workers in Asia and the Pacific in the time of COVID-19, Jul 20
- NT sex worker law reform discussion with SWOP NT, Jul 20
- 2020 UN UPR NGO Coalition Report on Australia's human rights scorecard, Jul 20
- Scarlet Alliance Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sex Worker Advisory Group online presentation on culturally appropriate peer education, Aug 20
- Women and Harm Reduction International Network (WHRIN) webinar, 'Women Who Use Drugs and COVID-19', Aug 20
- UNAIDS Internal Global AIDS Strategies workshop, Aug 20
- Co-chair of UAG Breakout Group on Key Populations workshops, Aug & Nov 20
- Community and Expert Consultation for the update of the WHO Consolidated Key Population Guidelines for HIV, STI and Hepatitis Prevention, Diagnosis, Treatment and Care, Sep 20
- Publication: 'COVID-19 and Sex Work in Australia Report', Sep 20
- Submission to National Preventative Health Strategy Consultation, Sep 20
- National Action Plan to Combat Modern Slavery, Sep 20
- Migrant Sex Worker Advisory Group workshop and development and screening of 'We are migrant sex workers' video, Sep-Nov 20
- Representation at LaTrobe Uni Primary Prevention of Sexual Violence and Harassment Workshop: Workplaces, Oct 20
- AFAO Members' Meeting, Oct 20
- Lobbying on changes to the Sex Industry Offences Act 2005 TAS re: notifiable diseases, Oct 20
- Review of Australian STI Management Guidelines, Oct 20
- Parliamentary Morning Tea about achieving hepatitis C elimination, Nov 20
- Department of Health & Civil Society Stakeholder Engagement on CND: Collaboration between Civil Society and Government on International Drug Policy, Nov 20
- ASHM Conference, Pleasure in a Pandemic Symposium: 'Pleasure and sex worker rights', Nov 20
- Data Availability and Transparency Bill 2020 Exposure Draft Consultation Paper, Nov 20
- National Action Plan M&E Framework Advisory Group, Dec 20
- Ahead of the Curve webinar, 'Sex work and COVID-19 in Australia', Dec 20
- DFAT World Aids Day virtual roundtable, 'HIV and Health Security in the COVID-19 Era', Dec 20
- World AIDS Day Parliamentary Breakfast, Dec 20

- Sex Worker Advertising Working Group, Dec 20
- Submission to Victorian Guidelines for Managing HIV Transmission Risk Behaviours, Dec 20
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples BBV and STI Strategy Peak Organisations meeting NACCHO, Dec 20
- Sex Industry Act 2019 NT review, Dec 20
- International Day to End Violence Against Sex Workers candle-lighting ceremony and forum with Abigail Boyd MLC, Dec 20
- Ministerial meeting of the National Roundtable on Human Trafficking and Slavery, Dec 20
- UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board 47th meeting, Dec 20
- Publication: 'Rethinking the relationship between sex work, mental health and stigma: a qualitative study of sex workers in Australia', Jan 21
- Submission on exposure draft Online Safety Bill 2021, Jan 21
- Support letter for Submission on Criminal Code (Consent and Mistake of Fact) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2020, Jan 21
- Public hearing: Inquiry Into The Criminal Code (Consent And Mistake Of Fact) And Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2020, appearance with Respect Inc, Jan 21
- Briefing paper, 'Full Decriminalisation of Sex Work in Australia', Feb 21
- Briefing paper, 'Full Decriminalisation of Sex Work in Australia', Thai and Chinese translations, Mar 21
- Submission on Online Safety Bill 2021, Mar 21
- Senate Committee hearing appearance for Online Safety Bill 2021, Mar 21
- Commission on the Status of Women side event panels with GLocal Network of Sex Worker Projects (NSWP) and with Best Practices Policy Project (BPPP), Mar 21
- One Woman Project International Women's Day event, 'Fight for a Decriminalised Future', Mar 21
- Kirby Institute International Women's Day webinar, 'Women and COVID-19: Equity and marginalisation during the pandemic', Mar 21
- Sydney Opera House 2021 All About Women Festival, 'Sex Work and Feminism', Mar 21
- Forefronting our Agendas: Advocacy to protect sex workers rights, Mar 21

- MACBBVSTI Hepatitis B Roundtable, Mar 21
- Contingent in Pride in Protest 'Take Over Oxford Street' Mardi Gras March, Mar 21
- Speakers at the 2021 Trans Day of Visibility March & Rally, Mar 21
- UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board, special session, Mar 21



- 2021 High Level Meeting on HIV and AIDS, Multi Stakeholder Task Force, Mar-Jun 21
- Community Consultation for High Level Meeting on HIV and AIDS, Apr 21
- First Regional Civil Society Consultation on the High-Level Meeting, Apr 21
- Regional HLM briefing with representatives of regional KPs, Apr 21
- ACCESS Advisory committee meeting, Apr 21
- BBVSS Workshop to progress implementation of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander BBV and STI Strategy, Apr 21
- Indian Civil Society and Community, Apr 21
- Empower Foundation Thailand webinar, 'Decriminalisation of Sex Work', Apr 21
- STI Strategy Stakeholder Consultation Workshop, Apr 21
- SWIG WA Meeting, Apr & Jul 21
- Support for Trafficked People Program (STPP) Additional Referral Pathway Working Group, Apr-Nov 21
- UNHLM Consultation International Advisory Committee Meeting, May 21
- UNHLM Briefing for Parliamentary Friends for Action on HIV/AIDS, May 21
- Federal Health Budget Briefing, May 21
- Scarlet Alliance Constitution review and update, Special General Meeting, May 21
- Community Legal Centres NSW (CLCNSW) State Conference closing plenary, 'Decriminalisation Now', May 21

- Labor Women's Rank and File Conference, representation with SWOP NSW, May 21
- Online Safety Bill lobbying trip to Parliament House, May 21
- Submission to South Australian Statutes Amendment (Repeal of Sex Work Offences) Bill 2020, May 21
- Media release: 'Sex workers condemn the passage of the Online Safety Act', Jun 21
- Better Together Panel with Vixen, SIN, Respect Inc, SWOP NT, Jun 21
- ASHM VICE International Sex Workers Day Presentation, Jun 21
- BBVSS in CALD Communities Workshop, Jun 21
- UN General Assembly HLM on HIV and AIDS, Jun 21
- UNHLM Side Event Panel with AFAO, APN+, APCOM, APNSW, APTN, ANPUD, Youth Lead, Jun 21
- 48th meeting, UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board, Jun-Jul 21
- Correctional Officers and BBVs Advisory



Committee, Jun-Oct 21

- Speaker at World Hepatitis Day event, Jul 21
- NSW Roundtable, 'Sex service premises & communications with local councils', Jul 21
- Annual Surveillance HIV and STI Cascade Reference group meeting, Jul 21
- Annual Surveillance HBV and HCV Cascade Reference Group Meeting, Jul 21
- DJPR Industry-specific QR code compliance meetings with Vixen Collective, Jul 21
- International Whores' Day Forum with SWOP NSW: Anti-Discrimination Amendment (Sex Workers) Bill 2020, Jul 21
- BBVSS/NACCHO Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workshop, Jul 21
- Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce Discussion Paper, Jul 21
- VIC Decrim Media Workshops with Vixen Collective, Jul 21
- VIC Sex Worker Research Community Advisory Board with LaTrobe, Jul-Dec 21
- Submission of key points for Queensland Law Reform Commission's Review into Decriminalisation of Sex Work in Queensland, Aug 21
- Inquiry Into Serious Vilification And Hate Crimes, Aug 21
- Senior Officials' Meeting of the National Roundtable on Human Trafficking and Slavery, Aug 21
- National BBV and STI Peaks, National Strategies consultation, Aug 21
- AIDS Memorial Community Consultation Session, Aug 21
- Decriminalisation of Sex Work in Victoria community info kit with Vixen Collective, Aug 21
- VIC Decrim Submission Skillshare Workshop with Vixen Collective, Aug 21
- Submission on Discussion Paper: Decriminalisation of Sex Work in Victoria, Aug 21
- Roundtable on Decriminalisation of Sex Work in Victoria, Aug 21
- Community submission writing and information sessions with Vixen, Aug-Oct 21
- Emergency Service Providers and Blood-Borne Viruses Review Group, Aug-Dec 21
- National Roundtable: Strengthening Community and PHN collaboration in BBV and Sexual Health Care, Sep 21
- Spotlight on Stigma Session, Stigma and Policy, Sep 21
- ASHM Conference satellite session, Symposium: Regulating Sex, 'What is it going to take to end stigma?', Sep 21
- Publication: 'Sex Work, Whore Stigma and the Criminal Legal System', Sep 21
- Submission on eSafety's 'Restricted Access System Declaration Online Safety Act 2021' Discussion Paper, Sep 21
- Submission on eSafety's Call for Evidence on Age Verification for Online Pornography, Sep 21
- ACT Sex Work Law Reform, Oct 21
- Proof of Vaccination Resource for Sex Workers, Oct 21
- AFAO Members Leadership Forum, Oct 21
- Snap info session on VIC Decriminalisation of Sex Work Bill 2021, Oct 21
- MACBBVSTI Syphilis Roundtable, Oct 21

TRANS & GENDER DIVERSE SEX WORKER REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

MISH PONY

The Trans and Gender Diverse Representative aims to represent the Scarlet Alliance aims and objectives and issues for trans and gender diverse sex workers within the sex worker rights movement (including Scarlet Alliance and other sex worker organisations) and more broadly through a variety of platforms such as delegated media, conference attendance, and sitting on working groups and committees.

Unfortunately due to continued lockdowns there were limited opportunities for representation this year.



For 2020-21 I conducted the following activities:

- Sat on the LGBTIQ+ Health Australia TGD Advisory Group
- Sat on the ACON TGD Advisory Group
- Spoke at the Sydney Trans Day of Visibility rally in March
- Attended the Pride in Protest Mardi Gras March Sex Worker Bloc
- Interviews for Happy Mag and Honi Soit
- Co-authored papers from the data collected in the Trans and Gender Diverse Sexual Health Survey:
 - Cisgenderism and transphobia in sexual health care and associations with testing for HIV and other sexually transmitted infections: Findings from the Australian Trans & Gender Diverse Sexual Health Survey
 - The Complexities of Categorizing Gender: A Hierarchical Clustering Analysis of Data from the First Australian Trans and Gender Diverse Sexual Health Survey
 - Sexual experience, relationships, and factors associated with sexual and romantic satisfaction in the first Australian Trans & Gender Diverse Sexual Health Survey (not yet published)

Outside my role I have also continued to provide ongoing administrative support to Scarlet Alliance, including work on the Constitutional Review Sub-committee, provided technical support to the Intro Room series, and continued to sit on the AFAO Board as the Scarlet Alliance nominated Director.

KEY PROJECT ACTIVITIES

SEX WORKERS
ARE
PART OF THE
COMMUNITY

NATIONAL PROGRAMS MANAGER

GALA

This year our programs have had an energizing burst with the addition of new staff and increased capacity for existing staff. This has allowed greater scope to push our work forward, catch up on some things that have been on our long lists of unfunded or underfunded work, and sustain the things that we're proud of. This year we said a grateful goodbye to our Policy and SANTAP Officer Kali and said hello to [REDACTED] and Leila, our two new Policy Officers, and Ari, our SANTP Officer. All have breathed new life into their respective projects and worked to add to or update the infrastructures of their roles.

Our Clap Back consultation process has been one of our major pieces of work this year, with a long window of consultation development in close collaboration with our member orgs who shared their practice wisdom on STI and BBV consultations and how to make a relatively dry topic engaging. We worked with some fantastic peer translators to translate the survey into Thai, Korean and Simplified Chinese, and have such gratitude for the hard and competent work of our peer educators who shared their translation skills. We are now digging through all of the incredible inputs from the sex worker community and looking forward to preparing some new resources with all of your ideas. We are extremely grateful to our member organisations for finding creative ways to do survey collection around COVID restrictions and their impacts on outreach activities, funding constraints, and staffing constraints. Each organisation did this a little differently, giving dimension to the consultation process.

Our policy team has been incredibly productive this year, working on areas like decriminalisation, discrimination, HIV policy, online law and policy, trafficking policy, and preventative health. We will also be, as we were last year, working responsively to address return-to-work plans for sex workers who've been unable to work due to lockdowns, and expect this to continue as we ride the waves of the pandemic. The space of sex worker rights health and policy is incredibly nuanced and deeply intersectional, and [REDACTED] and Leila have worked to onboard that with enthusiasm and receptiveness. We are privileged to have their diverse collective skillset supporting our policy outputs.

Our National Training Program Officer Ari has come in at full-speed bringing in lots of new initiatives to our peer education training, including regular group calls for students of the program, an experiment in cohort learning, guest educators, and a new advisory structure, 'Friends of SANTP', to help review the content of the program with an intention to update existing modules and construct some new ones. Ari is a skilled and experienced peer educator, trainer and community leader who has so much knowledge to impart, as well as strong skills for meeting our students where they are and ensuring that they get the most out of the program. This is a great time to get involved with this work!

Our Communications Officer Lola has also been revamping our communications with their design skill, drive for accessibility and knowledge of the sex worker community.

They have been essential to getting our Clap Back consultation process across as many screens and pages as possible, and will also be helping us develop its resources. They are also supporting a renewal of our web assets and bringing their knowledge and skill to a 'digital facelift' of sorts. They have also worked tirelessly alongside our Admin Officers to support the Emergency Relief Fund, with Lola doing the promotion and the Admin Officers doing the distribution.

Since our last National Forum we've also been looking inward, as increased staffing capacity has offered us a much-needed opportunity to review some aspects of our operations. A renewed strategic plan and constitution, updates to our internal policies and procedures, a consultation on our communications channels, and updates to our main website, SANTP platform and Red Book Online offer us a chance to streamline some of our operations and communications with the hope to be able to allocate more resources to an ambitious five-year strategic plan. We are so looking forward to renewing our web presence to better showcase our work and provide our community with the information you want.



The administration of the Emergency Relief Fund kick-started again around the middle of 2021 as Victorian and New South Wales sex workers found ourselves plunged back into infinite lockdowns. Our member organisations mobilised to provide additional administrative capacity to processing applications, which has allowed us to continue to distribute funds during the COVID delta wave. I'd also like to acknowledge the unwavering dedication of the Emergency Relief Fund subcommittee, who have devoted time to incredibly challenging weekly sessions to help distribute the funds we've received to sex workers who need them. These staff and volunteers of our member organisations have tackled difficult decisions, discouragingly low donation weeks, and an intimate view of the hardships faced by so many in our community, approaching this mutual work with a sense of equity and compassion.

Our staff have adapted to spending over a quarter of this working year to home setups, Zoom meetings, phone calls and masked trips to the office to water our beloved plant collection. We have a really skillful, emotionally intelligent and flexible team that I'm incredibly proud to help lead, and am grateful for the cohesion we've been able to build over the last year, and to continuing to grow that in the year to come.



POLICY OFFICER

LEILA

After stepping in to the role as a Policy Officer in June, I have primarily focused on working to ensure Scarlet Alliance's internal policy and procedures are up-to-date and effective, updating the Red Book Online resource for sex workers, assisting the National Programs Manager with the Clap Back consultation and campaign, and implementing feedback from the Red Book Online survey that took place in late 2020.

Red Book Online updates require a thorough quarterly review of the content of the resource to check for any technical issues, opportunities to integrate any new clinical research that is relevant to us as sex workers, attending online conferences in the sexual health sector, and looking for any gaps in our provided resources.

There have been a number of updates and new additions to pages on the Red Book website, including the abbreviations, Bacterial Vaginosis, Shigella, Chlamydia, Mycoplasma Genitalium, Contraception, Phimosis and PEP pages, as well as updating transmission pathway sections and adding more detailed treatment sections across all of the STI pages. This is always a work in progress, and we have many more updates in progress and planned. The processes for updating Red Book that we have in place include primary research, clinician consultation, and CEO and board approval before the website gets updated to ensure that each update has checks from people with different areas of expertise.

The COVID-19 pandemic has heavily impacted the collection of sexual health data, and key reports that we rely upon for updating the Red Book such as the Kirby Institute surveillance reports have been delayed. Sex workers have also reported difficulty being able to access testing, with many sexual health service resources redirected towards management of the pandemic. This creates a number of challenges in getting accurate and timely data, and will no doubt continue to have impacts on our understanding of the BBV/STI landscape in Australia over the next few years.

The Clap Back campaign is the major piece of work with which I've been involved in this year, and will allow us to give a boost to our current resources on chlamydia and gonorrhoea for sex workers. I have been a part of the consultation, info collection and data analysis aspects of the project. I helped to formulate questions and input into the online and paper surveys that went out online in English, Simplified Chinese, Thai, and Korean. We also developed some templates for note-taking in the face-to-face consultations that member organisations in each state and territory co-ordinated, some of which I was lucky enough to listen in on. I also reached out to some NSW-based sexual health services to disseminate information about our survey, which extended our reach within the community. I am now in the process of consolidating the input from a multi-channel consultation to determine what kinds of resources and other actions are desired, and

what questions the sex worker community would like to have answered.

A notable part of my work responding to things that came up in previous consultations has been getting to the bottom of the ongoing OMEGA ‘mouthwash’ study, which some in our community might know as the ‘mouthwash study’. I aimed to settle conflicting information present in peer spaces on gargling as a harm reduction tool in managing orally-transmitted STIs. In this report, preliminary results of using antibacterial mouthwash showed potential for reducing the likelihood

of transmitting and contracting pharyngeal gonorrhoea (aka gonorrhoea of the throat). I have been in conversation with numerous researchers and clinicians about this study and the results. Some say that it could be useful to reduce likelihood of transmission, but not contraction of pharyngeal gonorrhoea; others say the results were not conclusive enough to warrant advice. Everyone was in agreement that gargling anti-bacterial mouthwash would not have a negative impact. I am keeping close tabs on more results from the OMEGA study, and will continue to update the Red Book accordingly.

POLICY OFFICER

2021 has been an exciting and challenging year for the Policy Project, Scarlet Alliance and the broader sex work community. Our work continues to be affected by COVID-19 restrictions, discriminatory income support schemes and return-to-work plans, and further deterioration in our digital rights. But we’ve also seen some incredible efforts in Victoria, South Australia and Queensland to progress the decriminalisation of sex work and anti-discrimination protections. Our community has shown its strength, resilience and care in its mutual aid and fundraising efforts and ongoing advocacy and resistance

to stigma, state repression and discrimination. We worked with National Cabinet of Whores to produce the our briefing paper on the full decriminalisation of sex work, which has proven to be a powerful tool for education and advocacy, and which provides an up-to-date framework for our policy positions on sex work legislation.

In Victoria, the fierce activism of Vixen Collective, Scarlet Alliance and the broader sex working community led to the Victorian government confirming their commitment to the decriminalisation of sex work. This is a process that spans multiple government

departments and is set to be completed by the end of 2022. Vixen Collective and Scarlet Alliance also worked collaboratively to produce a community Info Kit to support sex workers to respond to the Consultation on the Decriminalisation of Sex Work in Victoria. This work provided an accessible way for community members and allies to contribute to the consultation within the extremely short time frame afforded by the government. Scarlet Alliance also produced its own submission to the consultation, and continues to work alongside Vixen Collective on lobbying efforts and ongoing consultation with the Victorian government. We also supported sex workers to participate in media and government representation as part of this ongoing process.

In Queensland, we have contributed to a public consultation conducted by the Women’s Safety and Justice Taskforce into Women and girls’ experience of the criminal justice system in Queensland. We collaborated with Respect Inc on this topic, but made separate submissions. This was an opportunity for Scarlet Alliance to illustrate how the current licensing system in Queensland criminalises our work, increases stigma, affects our access to justice and safety and grants police sweeping powers that directly degrade our relationship with the state. Scarlet Alliance, Respect Inc and DecrimQLD also worked collaboratively to produce a submission and attend a public hearing for the Queensland government’s Inquiry into serious vilification and hate crimes. This was an opportunity to illustrate why sex workers need robust anti-discrimination and vilification protections and why reform is needed to complement the intended benefits of decriminalisation.

The Policy Project has also continued to be involved in the national sex worker response to COVID-19. New developments in this space have led to new resources on our COVID Hub,

including a COVID-19 vaccination resource, to inform the community about vaccination options, navigation of confidentiality and privacy concerns, and variations on eligibility and availability between the jurisdictions. We also attended the Senior Officials Meeting of the National Roundtable on Human Trafficking and Slavery to provide our knowledge on best practice to address exploitation and trafficking that may occur within the sex industry.

Since the start of 2021, Scarlet Alliance tirelessly lobbied against the progression of the federal government’s Online Safety Bill (now the Online Safety Act 2021). Multiple submissions, an appearance on a Senate committee hearing, discussions with the eSafety Commissioner and a high volume of media advocacy and lobbying forced sex worker issues onto the agenda, but did not create the change that we know sex workers need in an increasingly hostile digital space.

Sex workers have been incredibly responsive on this process, and we’ve worked to keep community well-informed about the progress of the bill, and the implementation after its passage. We recently submitted to the eSafety Commissioner’s Consultation on developing a new ‘restricted access system’ and their ‘call for evidence’ regarding the implementation of an age verification system to access porn. We conducted broad research and a consultation with sex workers to inform our submissions, arguing for a more nuanced and evidence-based approach. We continue to seek the Commissioner’s participation in damage-controlling the impacts on our community.

The coming year will see more briefing papers on new topics including financial discrimination, anti-discrimination and vilification protections for sex workers, as well as continued work on our active decriminalisation campaigns and support for those emerging in other jurisdictions, a federal submission on job security, and lots more proactive and reactive policy work.

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

LOLA

This year the Communications Project went through some big changes in our processes and roles. With the shift to digital spaces we have started improving and expanding Scarlet Alliance's online presence. Existing assets were also maintained, such as our member newsletters, which contain news and information such as the introduction of the 2021 Scarlet Alliance executive committee and leadership, new staff, updates on the organisation, work progressed and key issues such as decriminalisation efforts in various states and territories. Other assets that were produced included the Annual Report, as well as new and updated versions of materials such as the Info Kit and Zoom Guide for the annual Scarlet Alliance National Forum (SANF).

COVID-19 had a huge impact on SANF and forced us to adapt to restrictions by holding the event online for the first time. SANF20 took place on Zoom, with local hubs held by state and territory member organisations around the country. There were 63 individual online attendees and about 90 delegates, peer-educators and in-person attendees across 10 local hubs. Highlights included online panels, presentations, skill-sharing and workshops on a wide variety of topics including Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander sex workers, migrant sex workers, The National Cabinet of Whores, police, astrology, and our online Whorestories event and WOTY Awards.

A detailed National Forum evaluation report was produced for exec, with feedback collected from online and local hub staff, presenters, and attendee surveys. We assessed functionality and accessibility, and the report highlighted key issues and recommendations to improve future planning and coordination. According to survey responses, the online format significantly improved accessibility for many attendees by reducing barriers to entry such as travel, funding, logistics (e.g. childcare, other commitments, etc) and social anxiety. Local hub attendees also valued the opportunity to attend in person and be in a sex worker only space where they could connect with peers.



SANF20 Gadigal land (Sydney) local hub



Follow Scarlet Alliance on Instagram [@scarlet_alliance](https://www.instagram.com/scarlet_alliance)

Red Book Online, our STI & BBV resource for sex workers, by sex workers continued to be updated and expanded, working in collaboration with the Policy Project, sex workers and health professionals. New and updated resources include changes to sexual health testing info, new and updated resources for sex workers in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, a new section on PReP, and updated information on STI & BBV. The content continues to be reviewed and updated through on-going consultations and evaluations. A plugin was also installed to allow users to easily print online resources.

A web analytics and progress report on Red Book Online was produced for our funders. This year, the website showed massive and ongoing increases in traffic, especially new content such as the COVID-19 resources. Major growth in traffic sees the number of visitors and sessions increase by over tenfold compared to the previous year. From 1 July 2020 – 30 June 2021, the site was accessed a total of 439,473 times by 337,677 unique users. Improved performance in search results has yielded an influx of referrals from search engines and the previous decline in engagement metrics has stabilised.

Social media content creation and management underwent a makeover, and we streamlined the processes with the implementation of tools such as Buffer and Canva. A new Scarlet Alliance Instagram account was created in February 2021, which quickly and organically grew to over 3,000 followers in 4 months, overtaking existing social channels in terms of engagement (as measured by rates of user interaction). The new tools helped us increase reach to our audience and improve online promotion of resources, consultations and other projects, especially the Clap Back Consultation and the Emergency Relief Fund.

This year we also started to get the ball rolling on the massive project that is building a new Scarlet Alliance website, and have been consulting with a web developer to investigate options and begin the data migration process and drafting timelines for consultation and development. We look forward to putting these plans into action in the following year and working on a new and improved online space for our organisation that will act as a base for all things Scarlet Alliance and connect all of our digital assets!

SANTP OFFICER

ARI

The Scarlet Alliance National Training Project (SANTP) is responsible for overseeing and maintaining the National Peer Educator Training Online Program. The training is a self-directed, comprehensive and flexible online learning tool that gives participants access to resources and learning material across eight different subject areas. It aims to increase the skills and knowledge of new peer educators and establish a national standard of best practice peer education. Participants can choose to complete a range of written and practical assessment activities to receive a certificate of completion or use the training program as a reference and resource to address their individual learning goals.

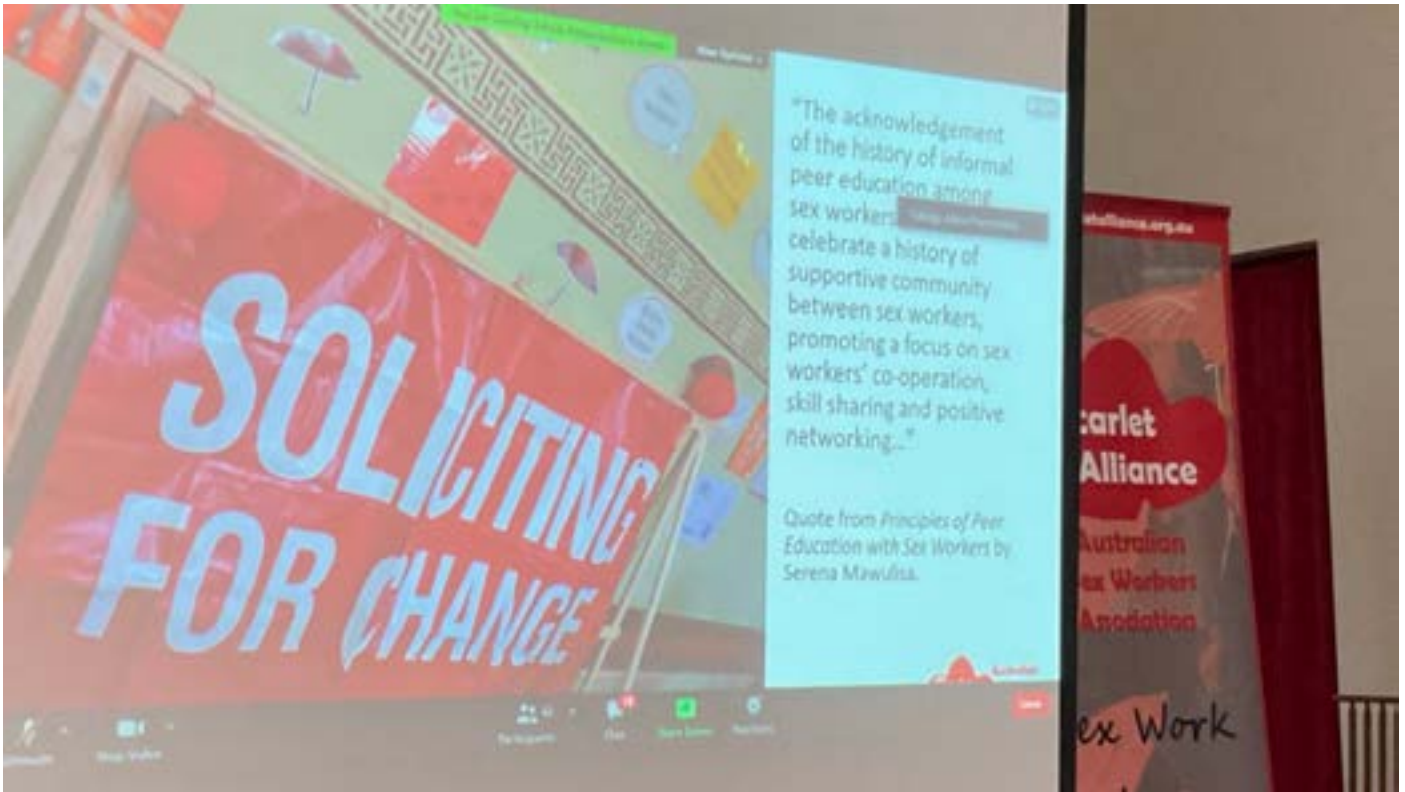
In January of this year, the previous SANTP Coordinator left the position, and the role remained vacant until May. Despite the extended vacancy, the project has continued to progress in a number of areas.

At the end of 2020, 55 sex workers contributed to the SANTP consultation. We asked about the skills and knowledge that peer educators need and what support we can offer to those who are enrolled in our program. Thank you to everyone that contributed to this process. These responses, along with the feedback received through regular check-ins with participants and the evaluation forms built into the training, have informed the establishment of a number of new initiatives.

One of the ways we have attempted to improve the delivery of the training is by catering to different learning styles and offering monthly group learning sessions conducted via Zoom. These sessions have been popular and fun to facilitate, and allowed an opportunity for discussion and reflection on the training content, optimising student learning. In some sessions we complete an assessment activity or discuss the requirements for the activity. Participants have also used these sessions to create networks with other learners to support each other in between sessions. In the future, we plan to utilise guest presenters and facilitators in these sessions to share their peer education experience and expertise in different areas.

We are also half way through the process of delivering the training to a cohort learning group of 12 learners. Together the learners are moving through the training over 16 weeks, participating in structured activities such as regular Zoom sessions, group work and independent studies. It is the first time the training has been offered in this way, and it gives us the chance to trial some new ideas and receive real-time feedback from the participants as we hopefully bring new life to the training.

All learners have also been offered increased contact and support with the development of individual learning plans outlining their



individual goals and learning needs, allowing me to tailor the support offered to each learner.

Finally, we have established a new advisory group called “Friends of SANTP”. This is a group of sex workers from diverse backgrounds and experiences who will act as an advisory group for the project. Some members are currently peer educators or supervisors of peer educators, some have backgrounds in education, and others are sex workers who receive peer education. All have important insights to share that will be added to the feedback received through consultations and other methods. The group will work our way through the training material to review and update the content, assessment activities, marking guides, resources, and promotional activities as well as considering the overall structure and topics covered by the training. They will provide advice and guidance to ensure the training is reflective of best practice peer education in current and emerging contexts and with our diverse communities. The review will also consider the currency, cultural relevance, and accessibility of the training material and delivery. If you

would like to contribute or want to know more, get in touch with the SANTP coordinator on the email address below.

In addition to these major initiatives, the training has continued to be maintained, with minor updates being made to improve understandings, update terminology, keep current with trends in sex worker health needs, and fix broken links.

There are currently 49 active participants in the training and participants have successfully completed 34 assessment activities. Along with the review of the training, we will soon be updating the software that delivers the training and we are looking forward to utilising a range of new tools and functions that will be available to improve the learning experience.

Thank you to Kali Kanivale for all the work she did with SANTP. I look forward to continuing that work and looking for new ways to ensure the training meets the needs of the whole community. If you would like to find out more about the training contact me at santap@scarletalliance.org.au or check out the training page on the Scarlet Alliance website.

TASMANIAN PROJECT

ANDREW & SARAI

Lutruwita, Tasmania is the land of the Palawa and Pakana people. Like the rest of Australia, it was never ceded and remains aboriginal land and waters. In writing this report, I acknowledge and deeply respect the Aboriginal people as traditional and ongoing custodians of this land. We are working hard to ensure our project is accessible by all of the community, including Aboriginal people.

The Tasmanian Sex Worker Project (The Tasmanian Project), like the rest of Australia has had an extraordinarily non-standard year. After a spike in locally transmitted COVID-19 cases in April 2020, Tasmania contained the outbreak, and managed the situation by enacting border restrictions and limiting public activity. Major events were cancelled by event organisers for fear that border restrictions due to other states' outbreaks would make events unviable. Key events that would normally drive visitation to the state were cancelled, including Dark Mofo, Agfest, Australian Wooden Boat Festival and the Taste of Tasmania.

Lutruwita, Tasmania has had no locally acquired cases of COVID-19 in over a year. Sex work has still been intermittently affected in Lutruwita, Tasmania, with fewer fly-in-fly-out (FIFO) workers and fewer interstate and obviously international visitors. Like everywhere, clients have been affected by fear of COVID-19, exacerbated by media.

The Tasmanian Project Team

The 2020-2021 financial year saw a couple of changes in personnel. After three successful

years, Lisa made the decision to move on from the coordinator role. Lisa has a great reputation within the Tasmanian sex worker community as a supportive colleague and effective liaison with government and other service providers. Also, due to other commitments, Ashley, our CALD outreach worker finished at the end of June 2021; Ashley's departure leaves the role vacant. The CALD position is vital and challenging. Andrew started in the coordinator role in May of this year. Andrew has worked previously in vocational education and training, community development, humanitarian settlement, and obviously, sex work.

The team in Lutruwita, Tasmania is currently Sarai as our Outreach Officer and Andrew as Coordinator, with the CALD Outreach Officer position vacant, awaiting applications.



The Tasmanian Project Activities 2020-2021

The Tasmanian Project, in normal circumstances, does both physical and virtual outreach to both local and FIFO workers in Tasmania. We have enjoyed conducting our work, relatively normally since December of

last year, delivering condoms, providing advice on the local, Tasmanian scene and providing collegial support. The Tasmanian Project facilitates an online community, Loomio, where workers can share experiences and ask questions. The platform also allows the project to share information, such as event invitations and collated information regarding hotels, advertising and safer sex practices.

The Tasmanian Projects outreach has been successful on two distinct levels:

1. Providing ongoing virtual and physical outreach to individual sex workers and the massage parlours in Hobart and Launceston, which includes regular weekly days for delivery of safer sex resources including condoms.
2. Building a small group of engaged workers who can support and inform the project's activities, and regularly interact with our online community.

The Tasmanian Project takes 'ugly mug' and 'time waster' reports from both local and FIFO workers, and shares the same with the sex work community to help maintain our safety. We have been doing this since 2012.

The community in Launceston was rattled at the end of 2020, with the death of a colleague under tragic and frightening circumstances. The Tasmanian Project responded, reaching out and providing support to workers who needed it.

The Tasmanian Project secured a grant of just under \$10,000 from the Tasmanian Community Fund to provide food and essential items to sex workers experiencing hardship as a result of COVID-19. The team sourced products, made up hampers, assisted individuals to purchase groceries and in some cases provided vouchers. This grant was fully acquitted up to the end of June this year.

The Tasmanian Project in partnership with Touching Base Inc. has also secured a grant to deliver Professional Disability Awareness Training (PDAT) to experienced sex workers in Tasmania, and Service Provider Awareness Training (SPAT) for disability service providers in Tasmania. This training will go ahead in the last quarter of 2021.

The Tasmanian Project has developed a range of Sex Worker Awareness Training (SWAT) programs, for General Practices, Sexual Health Clinics and Mental Health Service providers. This training has been well received and continues to have a positive impact. This training and the subsequent interactions with the service providers allows us to provide recommendations to the sex work community in Tasmania.

The Tasmanian Project continues to engage with the sex work community, other service providers, other sex work organisations around Australia via involvement in groups such as:

- National Cabinet of Whores (NCW)
- NCW's fundraising subcommittee
- Tasmanian Sex Worker Reference Group
- Tasmanian Sexual and Reproductive Health Collaborative Group
- Tasmanian Council on AIDS, Hepatitis and Related Diseases
- Tasmanian Council of Social Services

We most recently received an invitation to collaborate with the Community Action Plan for suicide prevention and mental health and wellbeing.

Funding Agreement

In 2016/2017 under the then minister for health, Michael Ferguson, the Tasmanian Liberal Government removed Scarlet Alliance's Tasmanian Project from their budget, which resulted in an incredible amount of work over the following years, securing funds that at times only saw the project 'safe' for three months at a time. After this drawn out process, and the hard work of Jules, Lisa and others, the project now has funding through to the end of 2022. We are continuing to seek to have the project receive recurrent funding as well as additional funding to expand the service to be even more responsive to the needs of sex workers in all Tasmanian major centres.

The Tasmanian Project invites any workers in Tasmania or who are considering coming to Tasmania to work, to make contact so we can support you to remain safe, and to enjoy your work.

MEMBER ORGANISATION REPORTS





RESPECT INC

QUEENSLAND

Respect Inc is an out, proud, peer sex worker organisation in Queensland. Our members, staff and management are all sex workers. We celebrate our twelfth year of operation in 2021. We pride ourselves on having sex worker voices central to all the work we do. In the past year the organisation has hosted a range of processes to ensure sex workers influence and direct where Respect Inc is going.

An Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey and Steering Committee, led by peer educator Hope Sweet, resulted in:

- Respect Inc signing onto #RaiseTheAge, #PrideNotProfit, Close the Gap, Change the Record campaigns and others,
- More prominent placement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags within Respect Inc offices,
- Respect Inc partnerships with Decolonise Sex Work,
- Improved use of place names in written material,

- Better understanding and pronunciation of First Nations groups and place names.

DecrimQLD is a volunteer committee sex workers who have joined with Respect Inc to progress Decriminalisation of sex work by the Qld parliament. In 2021 this resulted in the successful lobbying for decriminalisation to be referred to the Qld Law Reform Commission.

Respect Inc has hosted three projects focussing on members of our community who face particular barriers and marginalisation; Trans, male and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander sex workers. For many years the Management Committee, staff team and members of Respect Inc have been advocating for these communities to be better supported. These projects were funded by Respect Inc in 2020/21.



SIN

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

SIN has successfully navigated another year! We are always proud to be a peer-based organisation and, subsequently, a member org of Scarlet Alliance!

South Australian sex workers are still fighting for law reform. We remain the only state in the nation that still criminalises all forms of sex work. Our laws are archaic and convoluted – they need to be amended. The Honorable Tammy Franks, MLC, has introduced a bill to parliament; the Statutes Amendment (Repeal of Sex Work) Offenses Bill 2020. This bill is currently sitting before a select committee. SIN, along with allied health organisations, individuals, local government representatives, and others, were invited to give evidence

to the committee. In order to refute and debunk submissions that were not in favour of decrim, SIN ensured our evidence was thorough, robust, and represented the voices and needs of SA sex workers.

Despite the dire legislative situation in SA, sex workers have continued to rally in support of law reform, and in support of SIN. We've experienced a great upswing in social media engagement, as well as facilitating a successful roadside demonstration for decrim to celebrate International Whores Day. We look forward to the future with hope that SA law makers will follow other states and territories and embrace the decriminalisation of the SA sex industry.



SWEAR

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

SWEAR WA has been hard at work in 2021; running peer-focused activities, projects and collaborations that included:

- Co-heading the WA sex work decriminalisation campaign
- Co-facilitating the WA component of the Scarlet Alliance Clap Back Consultation
- SWEAR WA President Emma presenting at the 2020 UWA NOWSA Women's Conference
- Our Peer Educators attending an in-person 2 day Mental Health First Aid Training course, helping to build their capacity and skills around supporting peers with mental health conditions and other co-morbid and complex issues
- A submission to the Victorian Government's Decriminalisation Inquiry Discussion Paper

- Weekly targeted male-to-male worker outreach conducted by our male Peer Educator in the Perth CBD
- Providing consultation for the Scarlet Alliance Strategic Plan
- And of course; providing peer support & education, referrals, and outreach services to countless WA sex workers.

In 2022 SWEAR WA aims to continue working tirelessly for and with the WA sex worker community; giving peer support and education, and providing representation and consultation within the public and private sectors to continue raising awareness of sex worker issues and rights.



SWOP ACT

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

In 2021, SWOP ACT embraces this international symbol by including it in our rebranding. Simplistic in its design - but a shining beacon to our community to communicate the safe spaces, peer support and advocacy we provide for all sex workers that live, work and visit the ACT. It was important to move away from the previous logo that only had a feminine presentation highlighted within it. It was vitally important that our diverse community knows that they are included and welcomed regardless of any gendered presentation.

The indirect impacts from other jurisdiction's COVID restrictions has seen a lower number of sex workers within the territory and also a noticeable decrease of FIFO sex workers and clients. The shrinking of the volume of our community and clients have correlated with many sex workers reaching out with financial, emotional and wellbeing challenges as well a marked increase in reporting of sexual violence, work health and safety concerns, employment rights, homelessness and workplace discrimination issues.



SWOP NSW

NEW SOUTH WALES

Whilst challenged by the COVID-19 pandemic, SWOP communicated about ongoing changes to restrictions affecting independent operators and sex industry businesses, and advocated in the interests of sex workers throughout this process. Despite restrictions also limiting physical outreach for extended periods, SWOP retained connection with community members via phone/email/social media peer support services, zoom workshops and forums, and counselling offered remotely. SWOP collaborated with various health and legal services to share sex work specific information on these topics. To assist those financially disadvantaged by the public health situation, SWOP delivered food boxes in the Sydney area and sat on the subcommittee for provision of the Scarlet Alliance Emergency Relief Fund. When possible, SWOP performed outreach to sex industry workplaces across

NSW, and looks forward to resuming this work in the coming year.

SWOP's governance committee led the organisation through office relocation, our annual financial audit, renewed levels of progress tracking, work on adherence to WHS policies, reinvigorated membership engagement systems and consultation on our 2022-25 Strategic Plan. All NSW sex workers were invited to provide input and a draft will be delivered to the Annual General Meeting.

SWOP also worked with Scarlet Alliance and the NSW greens to progress anti-discrimination legislation for sex workers - work on this continues during 2021-22.

We are excited about welcoming sex workers back to our (new!) office in the coming months: 7/110 Botany Road Alexandria NSW 2015 / 02 9184 9466



SWOP NT

NORTHERN TERRITORY

The Northern Territory Sex Worker Outreach Program (SWOP NT) is a member of the Scarlet Alliance Sex Workers Association

Northern Territory sex workers are connected through advocacy, peer education & support, health promotion, outreach and broader programming for sex worker rights. We share skills and knowledge of:

- the Territory's laws, peer strategies & resources for work health & safety
- access to safer sex supplies & information and sex worker friendly referrals
- ways to engage in advocacy through the Sex Worker Reference Group (SWRG) or the Scarlet Alliance membership and national forums.
- how to contribute as workers, to parliamentary submissions and committees, co-deliver presentations and represent at meetings

After the passing of the Sex Industry Act 2019, NT sex workers worked hard in 2020-2021 to provide evidence to support the Objects of Sex Industry the Act, in providing recommendations for amendments to the NT Planning Scheme & Act, the NT Anti-Discrimination Act, the voluntary Certification process for larger Sex Service Business and Work Health and Safety Guidelines and Standards. This work progresses the regulatory framework for the full decriminalisation of sex work. Thus, aligning our work to existing laws and regulations as well as to industrial rights and protections.



VIXEN COLLECTIVE

VICTORIA

Vixen Collective responded to COVID-19 and its impacts on our community throughout 2020-21. We worked to ensure community access to accurate legal information about sex work and lockdown restrictions, and built relationships with government to support this work. Other key areas included: communication with VicPol; development of legal resources and referral pathways; community fundraising via the National Cabinet of Whores; collaborating with other organisations to provide access to food relief and translation services; and peer support. Vixen also recognises the extraordinary efforts of the sex worker community in organising and fundraising to provide essential support within community throughout Victoria's lockdowns.

Vixen continued our decriminalisation campaign and participated in the final stages of the government review in 2020. Vixen provided support to allied organisations and

other review stakeholders, as well as making our own written submission. This was directly informed by the knowledge and experiences of VIC sex workers who participated in consultations earlier in 2020. Throughout the rest of 2020-21, Vixen continued our decriminalisation advocacy and lobbying, as well as media appearances, and public online events.

Vixen Collective continues to run on the unpaid labour of Victorian sex workers in the absence of a funded peer organisation. Victoria is currently a heavily regulated environment with an aggressive anti-sex worker presence, compounded by an unprecedented public health crisis. Now more than ever, we highlight the urgent need for a funded peer sex worker service in Victoria to expand capacity and essential services that support the rights and wellbeing of Victorian sex workers.



DDDIFF NATIONAL


Hello Whores <3

As we continue in this very swirly and uncertain times our work which has always been about art and activism has shifted with need to focus on mutual aid. Responding to the health and economic crises that have arisen due to COVID-19 DDDIFF have continued our storytelling events that we began in mid 2020. These have all been online - with 100 % funds going directly to sex workers and sex worker projects. These events have allowed community participation in which workers are able to share the responsibility for caring for one another through symbolic acts of gathering, listening and connecting. We created these events

with the objective to not only support the community but also build new social relations and create space for visioning and creating new understandings and possibilities of the world around us, as we find ways to be together while we are so often having to be apart. For many who have come to the event these stories are disruptors that change the narrative of stories that are so often told about workers and not by workers, for others they have been a way to engage with the community as well as honour our stories and diverse history on our special calendar days.

<3 soli <3 DDDIFF





Sex Workers Are
Part of the
Solution



**ASSOCIATE
MEMBER
ORGANISATION
REPORTS**



Magenta

MAGENTA

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Magenta continues to provide free and anonymous education services, peer support, outreach services, clinical services and counselling to sex workers in Western Australia. With border still closed in WA for most of this year, the overall number of sex workers in the state remained lower than average for most of this year, a trend which has almost normalised now. This led to a brief boom in the industry and in Magenta's work for the early part of the year, and a lull for the second.

Magenta continued to assist WA sex workers in navigating COVID restrictions including snap lockdowns. For a time sex workers and most

other businesses were required to maintain visitor lists, a measure which was relaxed for most businesses after a few months. Magenta is unaware of any business which has had its lists checked at this stage

Magenta continues to prioritise support to grow and maintain sex worker only spaces in WA, recognising the emotional and informational value that spaces free from non-sex workers has within our communities. This has included maintaining Magenta's regular social events twice a month and supporting WA sex workers to meet and mobilise around decriminalisation monthly.



TOUCHING BASE

NATIONAL

COVID-19

COVID-19 restrictions reduced demand for our referral services over the last year, especially when lockdowns have been in place.

Resources

We are evaluating our most recent resource “Clearly Picturing Your Sexual Needs “. Feedback will be used to make improvements to the 2nd edition, to be distributed throughout disability and sex worker communities.

Lobbying

Touching Base has lobbied for law reform to decriminalise sex work in Victoria and look forward to doing the same in QLD and WA when the opportunity arises.

We helped to form a Roundtable of key lobbyists in the disability sector working to address ongoing issues around the NDIS and sex work at the Federal level.

Training and Conferences

Due to COVID-19 we had to postpone all in-person workshops and now aim to deliver them online.

Changes in personnel

This year we focused on recruiting new volunteers to take on key operational roles to free up Committee members for governance work, including:

- Admin Officer
- Training Coordinator
- Referral List Operator
- Referral List Database Manager
- Social Media Manager

For more information

touchingbase.org

facebook.com/TouchingBaseInc

instagram.com/touchingbaseinc



FINANCIAL REPORTS

TREASURER REPORT

DANIELLE BANKS

As Treasurer, I am pleased to present the Scarlet Alliance 2021 financial reports to you.

We present a set of accounts for the financial year July 2020 to June 2021, audited by an independent auditor, Portman Newton, with the verification that our organisations' financial management meets the Australian Accounting Standards. We are compliant with ACNC standards.

Our report shows total income of \$915,566 comprised predominantly of grants for both Scarlet Alliance and the Tasmanian Sex Worker Project totalling \$755,272. The main Federal Department of Health grant has been secured for two years and \$407,740 is carried forward for contracted activities in 2021-2022 financial year. The Tasmanian Project has received a two-year funding contract for the first time, running from 1st January 2020 to the 31st December 2022. The contract is for \$120,000 per calendar year. This is very significant as it is the first time in a long time we have had that kind of security for the Tasmanian project that was previously operating on 3 to 6 month funding contracts with no guarantee of ongoing funding. A small amount of other revenue was generated from professional services and membership fees. Interest accrued was incredibly low this year due to COVID-19, totalling \$484.

Expenditure totalled \$816,295 on domestic programs expenses, such as salaries, on-costs, direct program expenses and administration and was expended according to budget with negotiated and approved variations due to COVID-19. For example, there was much reduced expenditure on travel and accommodation than expected. These funds were reallocated in negotiation with funders and as approved by the Executive.

It should be noted that although it appears that we have a high level of current assets this financial year, the vast majority of those funds are already allocated liabilities for Scarlet Alliance.

These allocated liabilities include:

- \$484,444 received as grants in advance for contracted activities deliverable in 2021-2022 financial year
- \$248,818 in current liabilities including employee provisions, tax liability and accounts payable
- \$200,147 bequest from Roberta Perkins estate for sex worker research

Scarlet Alliance has generated a surplus for this financial year. As at 30 June 2021 it shows an increase in retained earnings at \$895,940, with overall accumulated equity of \$1,126,381. "The audit report shows at 30th of June 2021 that Scarlet Alliance is a going concern, meaning that we have the resources needed to meet our ongoing financial obligations. However, this report notes the dependence on government grants that account for the majority of Scarlet Alliance's income."

Low Interest Due to COVID-19 Issue

Interest rates have plummeted during the COVID-19 crisis and our high-interest savings account has attracted extraordinarily low interest returns this financial year. Exec and admin staff have decided to move the funds to another equally low-risk investment (or interest bearing account) with a better rate of interest.

The \$200,147 bequeathed to Scarlet Alliance by Roberta Perkins for sex worker research last year will be held in the high-interest online saver until there is an appropriate project to put it to; the Executive intend to consult on this in the coming term.

Emergency Relief Fund

The Emergency Relief Fund continued to be essential this financial year with the extended lockdowns in many states and territories. \$87,725 was donated between 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021 assisting 547 sex workers with payments totalling \$89,940.

The original fund that commenced in March 2020 continued this financial year from July 2020 to December 2020, and raised \$78,227.67 in donations supporting 357 sex workers in need with payments totalling \$69,600. In December 2020 the fund was closed as restrictions were lifted throughout the country.

The fund was reopened in June 2021 when workplaces again closed down and sex workers were subject to lockdown restrictions in VIC and NSW and later the ACT. Throughout June, \$9,497.33 was raised in donations and 190 payments were made totalling \$20,340.

One hundred percent of the funds raised went to workers: Scarlet Alliance did not draw any money from donations for administration or financial processing, thus the Emergency Fund used a considerable amount of Scarlet Alliance's resources. These donations also account for considerable resources passing in and out of Scarlet Alliance's accounts and none of these resources are retained by Scarlet Alliance.

Other donations were also received and distributed on request on behalf of Debbie Doesn't Do It For Free, from fundraising events for sex worker organisations in need.

Scarlet Alliance would like to take this opportunity to thank the countless individuals who donated to the fundraiser. In particular we would like to acknowledge the sex workers and peer organisations who contributed finances and labour to support our community in need.

