



Australian Sex Workers Association

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Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
legcon.sen@aph.gov.au

Thank you for the opportunity to inform the Inquiry into [Current and proposed sexual consent laws in Australia](#)

Scarlet Alliance, Australian Sex Workers Association is the national peak body representing a membership of individual sex workers, and sex worker networks, groups, projects, collectives and organisations from around Australia since 1989. Through our objectives, policies and programs, Scarlet Alliance aims to achieve equality, social, legal, political, cultural and economic justice for past and present workers in the sex industry, in order for sex workers to be self-determining agents, build their own alliances and choose where and how they work. Scarlet Alliance represents sex workers on a number of Commonwealth committees and Ministerial advisory mechanisms.

Scarlet Alliance membership includes individual sex workers and state and territory sex worker organisations. These sex worker organisations are led by sex workers, for sex workers, in all capital cities and some regional areas. They host peer education and health promotion activities, including provision of confidential advice in the event of sexual assault, linkages with sex-worker friendly criminal justice pathways and court support during assault cases. Scarlet Alliance and Scarlet Alliance member organisations have the direct highest contact with sex workers of any government or non-government agency.

As described in the Inquiry [Discussion Paper](#), sexual consent laws are within state and territory jurisdictions. Scarlet Alliance member organisations consult with local sex workers to advocate to state and territory governments regarding these laws and inform the national work of Scarlet Alliance when submitting to relevant law reform inquiries. For example:

2018, New South Wales: [Submission to Review of Consent Law 2018](#)

2019, New South Wales: [Submission Consent in Relation to Sexual Offences 2019](#)

2021, Queensland: [Submission on Criminal Code \(Consent and Mistake of Fact\) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2020](#)

2021 Queensland: [Submission on Consent Mistake of Fact](#)

2021 Queensland: [Submission Legislating Against Coercive Control](#)
2022, Tasmania: [Submission on the draft Criminal Code Amendment Bill 2022](#)
2022, Queensland: [Submission to Women's Safety Justice Taskforce](#)

This example of submissions to state and territory governments' highlight the expertise and particular needs of sex workers in relation to sexual consent laws. At this time Scarlet Alliance has participated in a joint submission with two other national peak bodies (AFAO and NAPWHA) and the NSW HIV/AIDS Legal Centre, and will follow the Senate inquiry with interest. In the event of national harmonisation sex worker voices will be important to drafting new laws.

Scarlet Alliance looks forward to being consulted and called upon to participate in the ongoing consideration of harmonised sexual consent laws. Please contact Scarlet Alliance Chief Executive Officer Mish Pony with any questions or invitations regarding this Senate inquiry and to arrange a sex worker presence at future hearings.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Mish Pony', written in a cursive style.

Mish Pony
Chief Executive Officer
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