



# Queensland Sex Workers

Our priorities as a community

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# Law Reform

Current laws are oppressive and inhumane

Approximately 80% of the Queensland sex industry is forced to work in “grey areas” of the law

Sexual Health Certificates for brothel workers are useless, condescending, expensive

We need full decriminalisation and no mandatory testing

Look out for the #DecrimQld campaign



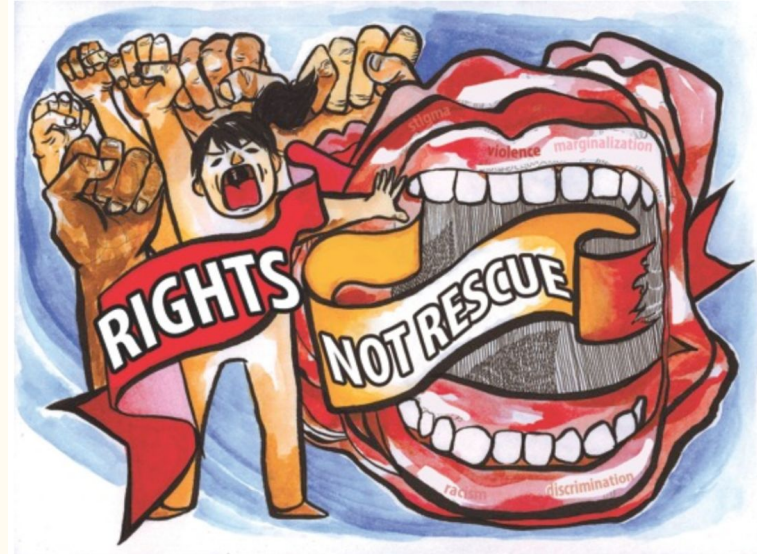
# Sexual Health - suggestions for clinicians

## Sex Workers are the original safer sex experts

- Some doctors still treat us as vectors of disease
- We are not victims - stigma is the main issue
- Bad experiences with GP's is a significant barrier

## We want Free and Accessible testing for all

- Medicare ineligibility is a barrier to health
- Rapid testing shouldn't be marketed as a replacement for conventional HIV & STI screening
- Contact tracing creates human rights issues & fear of testing
- Clinics have long & unreasonable waiting times
- Sex workers want regular free & confidential testing - not mandatory forced testing



# Staying safe at work

## Health checks

- Limited scope of use
- Allow us to make informed decisions

## STI + BBV

- Take appropriate measures
- Informed decision making
- STI and BBV policies that reflect our needs

## Drug Use & Sex Work

- Sex worker drug use stats are the same or lower than other professions
- What is different for sex workers is that there is intense stigma, marginalisation, prejudice, misunderstanding, ignorance & sensationalism about sex workers who use drugs
- Criminalisation, licensing, & discrimination adversely impact sex workers who use drugs, amplifying risk of Hep C transmission
- Sex workers need non-judgmental access to Needle & Syringe Programs, alcohol & other drug services, just like any drug users
- Sex workers may choose not to disclose their drug use in health care settings
- Don't make assumptions - drug users may or may not be sex workers, sex workers may or may not be drug users

# Questions?

Renon Schafer - Youth Project, Workforce Development Program

0437 000 724

[YFPE@RespectQLD.org.au](mailto:YFPE@RespectQLD.org.au)

