

MEDIA RELEASE

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SEX WORK DECRIMINALISED IN VICTORIA

Project Respect celebrates the Victorian Parliament's Upper house vote to pass the Sex Work Decriminalisation Bill on 10 February 2022, repealing the Sex Work Act 1994.

Project Respect acknowledges the diversity of lived experiences and views from the communities we serve in reaction to this news.

We are committed to working with the Victorian Government and all stakeholders to ensure the people with lived experiences are heard and valued, including gender diverse people and women from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, including migrant women and women on temporary visas, who comprise the majority of the industry and are especially vulnerable to exploitation and trafficking.

We support the move to destroy the historical sex work registration records, which we recognise as a source of stress to current and former workers in the sex industry.

We support the basis of decriminalisation in providing legal recognition for sex work as a legitimate form of work. As the details of this important legislation are worked through during implementation, we hope opportunities will be provided for the direct involvement of women with diverse experiences in the sex industry to continue to contribute their reflection of lived experience in prevention strategies, and to address gender-based violence to the benefit of all women.

QUOTES

Quote attributable to Carolyn Gowers, Executive Director

"We support positive reform of legislation and regulation impacting current and former workers in the sex industry, and will continue to be guided by the voices of those with diverse lived experience. We look forward to working closely with the Victorian Government and other stakeholders as this important legislation is implemented."

Quote attributable to Julia Cookson, Chair

"We celebrate the positive action taken to reform legislation impacting workers in the sex industry. We look forward to supporting change to protect workers from violence and exploitation, led by the voices of diverse lived experience. We support the Victorian Government's continuing action in the prevention of family violence and all forms of violence against women."

CONTACT

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