



Introduction

Welcome to the Respect Inc workshop for sex workers. This workshop aims to provide information and education for sex workers. You can choose to go through the entire workshop or select sections that are relevant to your needs. We are not the experts in your business but we hope that this workshop will give some ideas and techniques that may be useful when providing sexual services.

To tell us what you think or for further information please contact us by phone, drop into a Respect Inc office near you or send us an email to info@respectqld.org.au

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Safer sex

Safer sex is sex without the exchange of body fluids (semen, blood, menstrual blood or vaginal fluids). Safer sex practices may include:

- Non-penetrative sex
- Using condoms for anal, vaginal and oral sex
- Using dams for oral contact with the anus or vagina
- Using gloves for hand or finger penetration to the vagina or anus

Many sex workers don't kiss their clients; it comes with a small risk of transferring an infection like herpes (cold sores).

A healthy body can be our best business asset!

As sex workers we are providing pleasurable services and if we can make our clients feel aroused and sexually excited, they cum faster and there is less wear and tear on our bodies. By showing our clients how they can enjoy sex whilst using safer sex strategies, we can become safer sex educators for a section of the community.

Many of us will put in place strategies to distinguish sex work from personal sex that happens at home, like kissing at home but not at work, wearing certain clothes at work but not at home, using wigs for work and taking on another persona etc. It is really important that we don't let our sexual health suffer at home.

Safer sex supplies include

- Male condoms
- Latex free condoms
- Female condoms
- Dams
- Gloves
- Lubricants
- Finger cots
- Sponges
- Diaphragms

Male condoms

A condom is a strong sheath-like covering made of latex or polyurethane. They come in various sizes from 49mm (small) to 57mm (large). Condoms reduce the risk of pregnancy and contracting an STI (Sexually Transmitted Infection) during sex. Condoms should be used for vaginal, anal and oral sex.

How to use a condom

- Check the use by date on the condom packet. Throw out any condoms that are out of date, as they may break
- It is advisable to only use your own condoms, not the client's, as you can not be certain that they are stored safely or the client has not intentionally broken them
- The safest way to open a condom packet is with your fingers. Be careful not to break them with your fingernails
- It is advisable not to use scissors as there is a greater risk of cutting or breaking the condom
- Condoms should be placed on an erect penis before having sex.
- Before using the condom, pinch the tip of it to get rid of any air and this will also give space to hold the cum
- By adding a tiny bit of lubricant to the inside tip of the condom before putting it on, it may help the client feel more pleasure
- To put on the condom, place the rolled up condom on the head of the penis and unroll it to the base
- Add some lubricant on the outside of the condom to increase pleasure and help stop breakage
- Always use a water or silicone based lubricant as oil based lubricant can weaken the condom
- After the client has cum, hold the base of the condom firmly and slide off the penis. Remove the condom and throw it away. It is a good idea to wrap it up in tissue and throw it in a rubbish bin. Do not put it down the toilet
- For different types of sex with the client, you need to change the condom each time.
- Never reuse condoms
- Do not use the condom for oral and then for other types of sex
- If the client takes a long time to cum, it is a good idea to change the condom
- It is advisable to store condoms in a cool dark place. It is not advisable to store condoms in a car, purse or wallet for any length of time as they may become damaged
- How to use a condom <http://www.health.qld.gov.au/sexhealth/movies/condom.swf>

Female condoms

A female condom is a loose fitting pouch made of polyurethane and is lubricated. It is inserted into the vagina before sex possibly with the aid of a dildo. It is about 15cm long and has two rings to help keep it in place. A female condom can only be used once. It can be used as a contraceptive as it stops the cum from entering the vagina. It can also help protect against STI'S (Sexually Transmissible Infections).

How to use a female condom (femidom)

- Check the use by date. If it is out of date, throw it away
- It can be put in place up to 8 hours before having sex
- To insert it, find a comfortable position, either squatting with your knees apart, lying on a bed with your knees and legs apart, or standing with one leg on a chair or bed
- Hold the inner ring at the closed end and insert it into the vagina as far as it will go
- The outer ring should remain outside the vagina
- When having sex, glide the penis into the condom carefully
- Lubricant should be used
- After sex remove the condom by twisting the outer ring to keep the cum inside

- Female condoms should not be used at the same time as male condoms. The friction between them could cause one or the other to tear. Use one or the other
- Female condoms should be stored in a cool dark place

What to do if the condom breaks

- Remain calm
- Do not panic
- Withdraw the penis immediately
- Wash the outside of the vagina, anus or penis with water
- Do not use soap or detergent
- Do not douche
- Try to pass urine
- Squat over the toilet and push down with your stomach, trying to push any cum out of the vagina or anus
- Do not work any more during that day
- If you are concerned that there may be a chance of infection, seek medical advice before recommencing work

Post exposure prophylaxis (PEP)

If the condom breaks and there is a risk of contracting HIV, seek medical advice as soon as possible. After the risk factor has been assessed you may be advised to start a treatment of PEP (Post Exposure Prophylaxis). This treatment should be commenced within 24 hours of being at risk and no longer than 3 days or else it is not effective. It requires taking a combination of anti-HIV drugs at specific times over a four week period. This treatment does not stop you from becoming infected with another STI. If taken correctly, it does reduce the risk of becoming infected with HIV. This treatment should only be used as a last resort as the side effects are somewhat severe.

Emergency contraception

If the condom breaks and there is a risk of pregnancy, you can access emergency contraception or the morning after pill over the counter from a chemist. If taken within 72 hours of being at risk of becoming pregnant it is extremely effective.

Dams

A dam is a small thin piece of latex which is used for oral sex. They can be used to stop the exchange of bodily fluids and protect the anus or the vagina from STI's.

How to use a dam

- Check the use by date on the packet
- Check the dam to make sure there are no rips or tears
- Hold the dam firmly against your vagina or anus, this will help protect you against any infections

- Only use one side of the dam
- Only use each dam once, do not reuse them
- Store dams in a cool dark place
- To create added pleasure for the receiver of oral sex, put some lubricant on their side near the most sensitive part of the genitals

Lubricant

Lubricant is a water or silicone based gel which helps to avoid friction when having sex. Sometimes it is necessary to use more if it dries out during prolonged sex. Oil based lubricant can weaken condoms so they are not recommended. Water based lube can also be used for massages and doesn't stain the sheets as much as massage oil.

Where to get safer sex supplies

- [Where can I get them?](#)
- [How much will they cost?](#)

Xylocaine

Xylocaine is an anesthetic gel or cream used to numb the area it is applied to. Some sex workers use it for vaginal and anal sex but is not advisable. It will numb pain but it can be dangerous as we can not feel any breaks or rips to the internal tissues. It should be used sparingly if at all. If you have any further questions, we recommend you seek medical advice.

Sex toys

There are a wide range of sex toys to buy such as; dildo's, vibrators, butt plugs, manacles, whips, clamps, handcuffs etc. To clean sex toys, it is best to use warm soapy water. Using a condom on vibrators makes them easier to clean but it is still necessary to clean them after each use. It is best to always use a condom on sex toys where possible to help protect you from infections.

Sexual health checks

Sexual health checks are free from any Queensland Health, Sexual Health Services (SHS) Clinic. At Government Sexual Health Services, Medicare cards are not needed and you do not have to use your real name but the staff will require an accurate contact number in case they need to contact you to pass on test results. Family Planning and most GP Doctors can also help us maintain our sexual health. Different clinics operate in different ways so it is best to check whether an appointment is required. To find out where to access your local sexual health clinic go to: <http://www.health.qld.gov.au/sexhealth/help/default.asp> or ask your local or closest Respect Inc office.

Sexual health certificates

Licensed brothel workers are required by law to have a sexual health check every 3 months. At completion of an examination the doctor or nurse will give you a certificate of attendance. It will be signed by the clinician who carried out the check-up. This means that at the time you had a check-up, there were no visible signs of any STI's.

If when working in a licensed brothel you show symptoms or test positive for an STI you will generally be treated immediately and told not to work for a certain number of days. This is to be sure the treatment has been effective. When this occurs the clinician will forward date the Certificate of Attendance to reflect the date after which the treatment is known to be effective. It is illegal for a licensed brothel to allow a sex worker without a current certificate to provide sexual services from their premises. If a person is diagnosed with HIV, under the law the clinic will not be able to issue a certificate.

All other sex workers are not required by law to get a certificate to do sex work however it is a good idea to have a regular sexual health check. This can be as often as we feel necessary, after a condom breakage or when we just feel like we need to know we are ok.

Checking a client

Eyes open, lights on!

Many of us check our clients in different ways. Some do it when we are giving them a massage, some when throwing them in the shower at the start of the booking, others just pull their pants down and check them out.

Many STI'S have no symptoms so it is important to always practice safer sex even when there are no obvious signs of infections. Female clients are especially difficult to check but could still have an STI.

By looking at a client's genital area we can see if there are any obvious signs of infections. Look for lumps, bumps or sores including the area covered by pubic hair and milk the penis to check for the presence of any yellow or cloudy discharge. There are photos available in the STI section.

Any of these could be a sign of a STI and if we see something that doesn't look good, we can cancel the booking or offer less risky services like hand relief or masturbation while we strip, etc.

Condoms and dams can help prevent the transmission of STI's but the condom does not cover all the genitals and condoms can break. Some lumps and bumps are not STI's but if you do not feel comfortable just say no and advise the client to seek medical advice.

As sex workers, we are not medical practitioners and cannot diagnose an STI. All we can do is take care of our own health by avoiding risk.

Other sexual health information

Tips for male workers

- Keep your genitals and anus clean and avoid using perfumes on these areas

- Regularly check your penis, anus and scrotum or balls and the surrounding areas for any redness, tears, lumps or sores. Knowing our own bodies will help us identify when things have changed
- If the condoms are causing redness on the penis or anus try using a little more lubricant or consider that it may be an allergy connected to the latex
- If the penis is uncircumcised pull back the skin and wash under the skin and the head of the penis between each booking
- After washing the genital area ensure the area is dried carefully as moisture can cause bacterial or fungal infections
- Many of us will not want to cum with each client so that we can get it up with more clients each shift. Cock rings are a healthier way of doing this rather than long term use of enhancement drugs like Viagra
- If you receive anal intercourse you will find it more comfortable with an empty bowel either naturally or using a suppository or enema before work

Tips for male to female trans* workers, pre op

- For pre-operative trans, please refer to the tips for male workers
- If tucking, taping or strapping the penis be careful of friction, you can take care of your bits. Try running off to tuck and strap after you have got a booking so as to avoid being bound for long periods of time
- Try to use cotton underwear as nylon may cause sweating and by keeping the groin area as dry as possible, you can avoid bacterial infections
- If shaving the genital area, be careful of cuts as these could allow infections to enter your body

Tips for trans* women, post op

- The neo vagina does not have a natural cleansing and flushing system so extra care is needed
- Flush with warm water
- Once a week it is helpful to douche
- Flush with a mild salt bath consisting of one tablespoon of salt to 500mls of water. Rinse afterwards
- If there is a fistula it is best not to work and have regular salt bath to help in recovery. A fistula can take up to 12 weeks to repair

Tips for female workers

Sponges and working with your period

- Sponges are an effective way of working with your period as they will capture a small amount of menstrual blood so that the client doesn't know it is that time of the month
- For the client with a condom on, they often can't feel the difference between the sponge and the vaginal wall
- There are two types of sponge that are commonly used: cosmetic sponges (that come in a sealed package) and sea sponges. Cosmetic sponges come in wet and dry types
- When dry they are about 3cm round but when moistened, squeezed and inserted, they are very small
- You may find that the sponge doesn't capture enough blood to be helpful on heavy days so you may use pink or red colored condoms to mask any leakages
- Sponges should be changed after each job

- Often the sponge will be deep in the vagina after intercourse; tips for removing it include lying flat with legs spread or squatting in the shower. Be careful of finger nails and if you can't get it out, call into your local sexual health clinic for assistance
- You may wish to tie a piece of dental floss around the sponge to create a soft tampon, this way you can pull on the string for easier removal after the job

Diaphragms

- A diaphragm is a dome shaped cap made of latex, covering the cervix and acting as a barrier to prevent sperm from entering
- They are generally used as a contraceptive but some of us use them in case the condom breaks or instead of sponges as they will capture a small amount of menstrual blood
- They come in different sizes and need to be fitted by an experienced Sexual Health Doctor or Nurse
- If you lose or put on weight, the diaphragm will need to be changed or refitted.
- They do not provide protection from STI's

Sexually transmissible infections (STI's)

An STI is an infection that is passed from one person to another during sex. The most common way to get an STI is by having unsafe sex. That is having sex without using a condom on a penis for anal, oral and vaginal penetrative sex and not using a dam for oral sex, either vaginal or anal.

Some STI's are able to be seen; others show no signs or symptoms. This means a person can have an STI and not know it. Some STI's can be treated by drugs and others remain in the body. That is why it is important to see a doctor or have a sexual health check if you have any discomfort, symptoms or concerns.

Types of STI's

For pictures of STI's, go to the [STI photo gallery](#).

For general information and short animations on how they impact on your body.

- HIV/AIDS
http://access.health.qld.gov.au/hid/InfectionsandParasites/SexuallyTransmittedDiseases/hivAndAids_fs.asp
- Hepatitis A
http://access.health.qld.gov.au/hid/InfectionsandParasites/ViralInfections/hepatitisA_fs.asp
- Hepatitis B
http://access.health.qld.gov.au/hid/InfectionsandParasites/ViralInfections/hepatitisB_fs.asp
- Hepatitis C
http://access.health.qld.gov.au/hid/InfectionsandParasites/ViralInfections/hepatitisC_fs.asp
- Genital Herpes
http://access.health.qld.gov.au/hid/InfectionsandParasites/SexuallyTransmittedDiseases/genitalHerpes_fs.asp
- Syphilis
http://access.health.qld.gov.au/hid/InfectionsandParasites/SexuallyTransmittedDiseases/syphilis_fs.asp

- Gonorrhoea
http://access.health.qld.gov.au/hid/InfectionsandParasites/SexuallyTransmittedDiseases/gonorrhoea_is.asp
- Chlamydia
http://access.health.qld.gov.au/hid/InfectionsandParasites/SexuallyTransmittedDiseases/chlamydia_fs.asp
- Genital Warts
http://access.health.qld.gov.au/hid/InfectionsandParasites/SexuallyTransmittedDiseases/genitalWarts_fs.asp
- Molluscum Contagiosum
http://access.health.qld.gov.au/hid/InfectionsandParasites/SexuallyTransmittedDiseases/molluscumContagiosum_fs.asp
- Donovanosis
http://access.health.qld.gov.au/hid/InfectionsandParasites/SexuallyTransmittedDiseases/donovanosis_fs.asp
- Trichomonas
http://access.health.qld.gov.au/hid/InfectionsandParasites/Parasites/trichomonas_fs.asp
- Thrush (Candida or Candidiasis)
http://access.health.qld.gov.au/hid/InfectionsandParasites/FungalInfections/thrushCandidiasis_fs.asp
- Pubic Lice/ crabs
http://access.health.qld.gov.au/hid/InfectionsandParasites/SexuallyTransmittedDiseases/pubicLiceCrabs_fs.asp
- Scabies
http://access.health.qld.gov.au/hid/InfectionsandParasites/Parasites/scabies_fs.asp
- Jock Itch
http://access.health.qld.gov.au/hid/InfectionsandParasites/FungalInfections/tineaRingworm_fs.asp

Emotional wellbeing

Looking after your health

It is important for everyone to maintain a healthy state of wellbeing particularly for sex workers as we share a higher level of physical intimacy with our clients than most other professions. Many of us will want to look good, feel good, maintain our sexual health and be able to perform so as to satisfy our clients and stay safe with them.

Some warning signs that our emotional health may be impacting on our physical health could include:

- Feeling lethargic or run down
- Regular outbreaks of colds, flu's, throat and chest infections
- Constant feeling of anxiety
- Outbreaks of pimples and/or acne
- Constant headaches or migraines
- Outbreaks of cold sores or herpes
- Eczema or psoriasis flare ups
- Trouble sleeping
- Sleeping too much
- An increase in wrinkles or dark circles under the eyes and/or puffy eyes
- Asthma attacks
- Unusual bruising

- Recurring thrush or urinary infections
- Irregular periods
- Feeling overwhelmed or depressed
- Feeling sad and crying regularly
- Feeling angry and unwanted or unloved
- Low self esteem
- Putting off bookings
- Making excuses why to not work
- Increase in alcohol consumption
- Increase in medication
- Other drug use

Some of these may also be signs of more complex medical problems as well, so if they continue consider visiting a health care provider for a check up.

Emotional wellbeing strategies

Our bodies need a certain amount of sleep. We also need time to unwind and clear our heads after working so we are feeling calm and are able to go to sleep. It is important to decide when we work and when we have regular time off. We are not machines and can't work 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Everyone needs at least 6-8 hours sleep a day to maintain our energy. Stress can help motivate us but sometimes it can just leave us feeling drained and burnt out. It is good to try and identify the things that are stressful in our lives and alleviate as many of the bad stressors as possible.

It is helpful to separate our work life from our home or social life. Strategies that some of us use include:

- Using a work name
- Taking on another persona or playing a role
- Wearing certain make up or clothes to work and not at home
- Using condoms that we wouldn't use at home
- Wearing a wig at work

Sometimes we become too busy or tied up to eat regularly. It is important to maintain a healthy diet and have regular meals or graze regularly during our waking hours to keep our strength at a premium level. Setting some goals and rewarding ourselves regularly as a bonus for doing good work can help keep us to feel good.

Some of us work nights and inside buildings for long shifts which makes it hard to get outside in the sunlight. Try to go outside everyday.

As sex workers, some of us find ourselves in bookings where we feel we are the counselor. This can often be emotionally and mentally challenging. It can push our boundaries and be stressful, upsetting and draining. All of this can cause a physical reaction. We can try and deal with this by knowing our own limits and taking care of our own emotional and physical needs first by setting boundaries.

Talking to friends, co-workers and/or counselors is often used by many people as an emotional health strategy. This can be hard if we work alone and the people in our lives at home may not know or like what we are doing. We recommend having a support network that includes at least one person we are totally honest with so that we don't feel so isolated.

Come and boost your whole pride with a visit to your local Respect Inc office. We are all proud sex work peers at Respect Inc! Drop in, have a cuppa and a chat.

Negotiating the booking

Services are negotiated and re-negotiated from the first point of contact we have with our clients and then throughout the booking right up until we walk out the door.

When talking to a client for the first time, we are interviewing each other for a job and setting up the terms and conditions for how that encounter will occur. Often, the more effective we are at negotiating at this point and establishing boundaries with our client, the easier the booking will be once ground rules have been laid down.

We may be negotiating and setting boundaries on things such as times we are available, price, what services we do and do not offer and any specifics of what they want included in the service. We are completely within our rights to charge for extra services that are not included in our 'standard' service.

It is a good idea to negotiate extras before the booking to help to establish expectations and boundaries. If the client thinks everything they want is included in the price they may get angry when we stop them in the heat of the moment. Also, by getting the money before we provide a service we can set a definite time for when the booking starts and when it will end. This allows us to get on with what the client wants without having to worry.

By having our emotional, financial, mental and physical boundaries set before starting work we will be more likely to provide the types of services we want, on our terms, and at a price we want. It is up to each of us to protect ourselves and get what we want from the client, so it is up to each of us to be aware of our own boundaries and how to negotiate so they remain firmly in place.

Negotiations will continue throughout the booking and may include things like getting the money out of the client's hands, getting them to the shower, stopping them from groping, biting or being too rough and an array of other situations. Sometimes things get difficult but by being confident, taking control of the situation, re-negotiating and re-directing the client you are more likely to stay safe. This does get easier with practice and you feel more confident with experience. Do not give up if it does not always work out the way you want.

Just telling a client to stop doing something without providing an alternative may not work, try 'Honey rather than playing with my nipples, I really enjoy my arse being rubbed'. Otherwise it is like trying to get a toddler to stop doing something without giving them something else to play with.

When negotiating a difficult situation, remember the golden rule of redirecting a client. Be charming whilst being assertive, give him an alternative, and sweeten the deal in his mind.

Common terms used in sex work in Australia

English	Term Translated	Definition
Oral sex	Oral sex	Sexual contact between the mouth and the genitals or anus; fellatio, cunnilingus, or anilingus.
Full Service	Full Service	Service including intercourse
Hand Relief	Hand Relief	Hand stimulation of male penis until ejaculation, usually at end of a body massage
Rub n tug	Rub n tug	Hand relief after a massage
Happy ending	Happy ending	Hand relief after a massage
Natural	Natural	Sex without a condom

English	Term Translated	Definition
Natural Greek	Natural Greek	Anal sex without a condom
Natural French	Natural French	Oral sex on male penis without a condom
Massage	Massage	Touching and rubbing the body. Could be therapeutic or sensual
Body slide	Body slide	Massage where sex worker rubs their body up and down the client's body
Kissing	Kissing	Generally mouth to mouth contact
Strip	Strip	Erotic Dance while removing clothes
Lap dance	Lap dance	Slow and erotic dance done over a client while they sit
Peep show	Peep show	Client sits on other side of glass and pays to watch sex worker dance and touch themselves
Anal	Anal	Sex penetrating the anus
Dildo	Dildo	Artificial penis usually made of soft rubber
Vibrator	Vibrator	Artificial penis that vibrates or other vibrating machine that is used on genitals
GFE (girl friend experience)	GFE (girl friend experience)	Sexual service that seems like it is for love and not for money; has a lot of different meanings
Escort (outcall)	Escort (outcall)	Sex worker travels to where the client is for the booking
Social escort	Social escort	Outcall booking which does not include a sexual service
Incall, (In house)	Incall, (In house)	Client travels to where the sex worker is for the booking
Social escort	Social escort	A person who is paid to spend time with a client but does not provide any form of sexual services
Brothel	Brothel	An in house agency
Escort agency	Escort agency	A sex work business where more than one sex worker gets jobs from and only provides outcalls
Sole trader, private worker	Sole trader, private worker	A sex worker who works independently with no other sex workers

Safety tips

These are tips to give people food for thought. They are not the only safety strategies each person will use and not all will work for everyone but they will give people some ideas on what will work best in their own business and environment.

All workers

- Think about doing a self-defence course to build confidence
- Always be aware of the potential for violence

- Be willing to run out naked
- Trust your gut instinct; don't see clients who make you feel unsafe
- Clients who have been drinking, or taking drugs are more likely to be unpredictable or violent. Handle them carefully or refuse to see them
- Leave personal identification and credit cards somewhere safe and out of reach or access to clients
- Do not enter areas with more people than your client
- Get paid before you start, and put the money in a safe place
- Have a personal alarm and or mobile phone with pre-programmed emergency numbers
- Make your own drinks and not leave them unattended as drinks can be spiked

In house (incall)

- Good lighting, security doors, intercom, surveillance systems, peephole, and panic buttons connected to a security company
- Know the layout and plan an escape route
- Know where potential weapons you can use are kept e.g. torch, lamp, keys and high heel shoes

Escort (outcall)

- Take the money out to the car before starting the booking
- Check for red flashing lights in the room or in cupboards which could be from a video camera
- Put clothes and bag at exit
- Call in and out even if it is to your own answering machine
- Confirm booking by ringing them on a landline before traveling long distances
- Look around the room at what could be used as a weapon either by them or you
- Check no one else is in the house or room
- Identify ways out e.g. look at how the doors lock, is there a dog in the yard?
- Have an escape route

Escort and street

- Let someone know where you are going and estimated time of return
- Be familiar with the area you are working in
- Be wary about getting into and working in cars
- Have a safe stash spot for money e.g. parked car around the corner
- Use a Buddy System with another sex worker

Sexual assault in our workplaces

Both sexual assault and rape are crimes that occur because consent has not been given or is withdrawn. Sex workers may be targets for sexual assault because some clients believe that when they pay for our services they can do whatever they like.

Sexual assault is a crime

- Whether any semen is ejaculated or not
- Even after consensual sexual activities with the person at some other time
- Even if there is an agreement to provide another type of sexual service (for example, there may have been an agreement for vaginal penetration but this doesn't mean there was an agreement for anal penetration)
- Whether the survivor is female, male or transgender

- Even if you have sexual arousal signs like a hard-on or orgasm, this is not an indicator of consent but a natural physical response

Even if we agree to provide certain services in return for payment, it becomes a crime if the client forces us to provide services that were not agreed to or under conditions that were not agreed on (such as without a condom, or in a very rough manner for example).

There are also a range of specific conditions that affect our vulnerability to sexual assault. These conditions include:

- The nature and location of some workplaces (like people who work completely alone)
- The laws regulating sex work (like when perpetrators know that if we are not in a licensed brothel we are forced to work in isolation to be legal, they may see us low risk victims of their violence)
- The reluctance of sex workers to report the crimes to police for fear of discrimination, etc

If you have been sexually assaulted, you can go to the hospital immediately. The hospital will conduct a rape kit and collect evidence from you so don't wash anything, not even your hands. Ask the hospital staff to contact the police.

You may find some more help here: <http://www.health.qld.gov.au/sexualassault/>

Like other victims/survivors of sexual assault, sex workers may be reluctant to speak out. If you have experienced sexual assault you should never let your experience of sexual assault be questioned, ignored or silenced.

Even if you choose not to report the crime to the Police, you can still access services for support. For more information contact Respect Inc.

Just because the laws don't support our right to a safe workplace, that doesn't mean we should accept violence as a part of our job.

**YES MEANS YES, NO MEANS NO
HOWEVER I DRESS, WHEREVER I GO**

Finance and tax

It is not Respect Inc's job to tell other sex workers to work legally, pay tax or try to dictate how to run a sex work business.

In Australia the ATO (Australian Taxation Office) expects anyone who has an income over \$6,000 a year to pay tax, whether they are an employee or small business owner. The tax rates vary depending on how much income the person earns for that financial year.

All sex workers in Queensland are considered to be independent contractors, whether they work in a licensed brothel or privately. A sex worker can register for an ABN (Australian Business Number) from the ATO (Australian Taxation Office). A sex worker needs a TFN (Tax File Number) to apply for an ABN. Sex workers from overseas can register if they have a visa that lets them work in Australia.

The ATO (Australian Taxation Office) has introduced a tax rate for PSI (Personal Service Income) Tax. The rate is not just for sex workers, this includes all Personal Services workers (e.g. masseurs, hairdressers, sex workers etc.) Basically, with PSI rates we will pay less tax than a normal business owner.

If you earn over \$75,000 per year you can register for GST (Goods and Services Tax) with the ATO.

The ATO (Australian Taxation Office) has a phone number which we can call anonymously to find out more about our rights and responsibilities. All sex workers are able to access the Respect Inc office phones to make a phone call to the ATO. Or you can check online:

Personal services income

<http://www.ato.gov.au/businesses/pathway.aspx?sid=42&pc=001/003/092>

GST and the sex industry

<http://www.ato.gov.au/content/18507.htm>

Declaring your income and paying tax could have some benefits.

- You can claim travel expenses such hotels, air tickets, car rentals and some work related expenses. You should check with your own accountants first before submitting your tax return
- You can apply for bank loans or credit cards if you can show proof of income
- You could get EFTPOS

Bookkeeping

If you write down the money you earn for each job in a book, you can keep track of your daily and monthly earnings and profit. This helps keep the cost of accountancy bills down when it is time to submit your tax return. Even if you have an accountant you still need to know what is going on with your tax. Bookkeeping and tax return fees can be claimed as work expenses.

Respect Inc has a list of sex worker friendly accountants and bookkeepers who may be able to assist.

Charging your clients

We all know how much we are worth. What we charge is our choice. Remember you are selling a special service so charge accordingly. You do not want to underprice yourselves.

Have a look at other sex worker advertisements, the prices they charge for various services and how they market themselves. You can then design your own personalised deals and set rates that you are happy with.

Discrimination

If you have applied for a service like a loan or EFTPOS facilities and believe that you have been refused because you are a sex worker, you can contact the Anti Discrimination Commission Queensland, for more information about your rights.

In Queensland, the Anti Discrimination Act states that it is unlawful to discriminate against somebody for lawful sexual activity, which includes legal sex work. However, this act does not cover all situations and it is recommended to contact your closest ADCQ office to discuss your individual situation.

ADCQ website: <http://www.adcq.qld.gov.au>

What's legal and what's not?

The laws governing sex work are set out in the Prostitution Act (Qld) 1999 (PA) and the Queensland Criminal Code 1899 (CC).

Licensing and registration of sex workers

You are NOT required to be licensed or registered to work as a sex worker in Queensland.

There are two forms of legal sex work in Queensland:

- working in a licensed brothel as a service provider
- single worker working alone (Sole Trader or Private Worker)

Any other form of sex work is illegal in Queensland. To work in a licensed brothel you are required to present a current sexual health check certificate. This is not required for a private worker.

What is prostitution?

Under the Criminal Code (s.229E) the meaning of prostitution is:

(1) A person engages in prostitution if the person engages, or offers to engage, in the provision to another person, under an arrangement of a commercial character, of any of the following activities—

- (a) sexual intercourse;
- (b) masturbation;
- (c) oral sex;

(d) any activity, other than sexual intercourse, masturbation or oral sex, that involves the use of 1 person by another for his or her sexual satisfaction involving physical contact.

Unlawful Prostitution

Unlawful prostitution means prostitution by private sex workers who share accommodation with other sex workers, link up with entities (like escort agencies or massage parlours), or other parties that knowingly participate in the provision of prostitution.

This does not apply to sex workers at a licensed brothel, provided the restrictions on the brothel licence are being followed.

Message Takers – CC s229HA(5)

As a private sex worker you cannot employ a receptionist but you can have a message taker. A message taker:

- can only take a message to ensure the safety of the sex worker
- must receive the message from the sex worker themselves
- must not be a sex worker themselves
- can take a message for only one sex worker.

Drivers – CC s229HA(4)(B)(ii)

A private sex worker can now employ a person as a driver provided that driver is a holder of a current licence for carrying out the functions of a crowd controller. This licence is issued by the Office of Fair Trading under the Security Providers Act (Qld) 1993. A driver:

- may participate in the provision of prostitution no more than the extent necessary for providing services as a driver
- can work for only one sex worker.

Security/Bodyguards – CC s229HA(4)(B)(i)

A private sex worker can employ a bodyguard provided that person is the holder of a current license for carrying out the functions of a bodyguard. This licence is issued by the Office of Fair Trading under the Security Providers Act (Qld) 1993. The bodyguard:

- may participate in the provision of prostitution no more than the extent necessary for providing services as a bodyguard
- can work for only one sex worker.

Can the Bodyguard & Driver be the same person?

You can employ a person as both your bodyguard and driver provided that person holds both appropriate licenses under the Security Providers Act (Qld) 1993, and works for only one sex worker at any given time.

Advertising – Prostitution Act (Qld) 1999 s92–s96C

There are particular advertising guidelines sex workers need to adhere to.

As a general rule:

- we may not use the word MESSAGE in our advertisements if we provide a sexual service – this includes hand relief or happy ending – s.95
- we cannot describe our services in our advertisements – s.93(1)
- negotiating services over the phone is not considered to be an advertisement. You are able to describe the services you provide over the phone as well as those that you do not offer. You can discuss the rates you charge and whether you provide a massage with your service. This is important because a prospective client is likely to want a specific service and may be disappointed if they find out that it is not available during the booking
- the ad must not be published using radio, television, film or video recording – s.93(3)
- the ad cannot induce someone to seek employment as a sex worker – s.94
- you cannot advertise as a social escort and provide sexual services.

This area can be a mine field and if you are uncertain about whether or not your ad complies with the guidelines you can contact the PLA or go to their website:

www.pla.qld.gov.au/advertising/userGuideApprovFormAdvertPros.htm

Working from your own home

You can work from your own home as long as you are the only person offering sexual services on the premises.

If this is also your partner's usual place of residence he/she may be permitted to be on the premises but must not be involved in the negotiation, meet or greet clients, respond to calls and enquiries or benefit financially from the earnings of the sex worker. If your partner has no independent income the police might claim that your partner benefits financially from your sex work and charge them under CC s.229H or 229F. Please note that each individual circumstance is different and the outcome will depend on the police investigation.

If you have a lease agreement you should check to see if it sets any conditions about conducting a business from the residence.

Street and bar work – PA s73

Approaching potential clients in any public area to solicit sexual service is illegal. It is also illegal for them to approach you in a public place and solicit for sexual services. You could be charged if you give out your details to potential clients in public places such as café's, casinos, nightclubs, hotels, streets, clubs and truck stops. Police are exempt so they can pose as clients or sex workers to obtain evidence.

Motels and hotels

It is not illegal for a private sex worker to work from a motel or hotel room. However, it is unlawful for two or more sex workers to work together so if you work from accommodation you will be committing an offence if you are not alone.

If a motel operator acts in a discriminatory way to deny accommodation to a sex worker because that person is a sex worker, then the provisions of the Anti-Discrimination Act 1991 might apply to your particular situation.

However it may not be discrimination if the motel or hotel makes it a condition of the contract that you enter into with them when acquiring accommodation that no business activity can be carried out on their premises or earning income from the accommodation is not allowed. This is provided that the motel or hotel operator applies these same terms and conditions to all guests.

The law as it stands has not given any clear indication whether a motel or hotel operator has the right to refuse a private sex worker accommodation on the grounds that they will be using the room for lawful sex work.

It is advised you use sex worker friendly motels or hotels.

Procuring prostitution - CC s229G

By law, to procure prostitution means to “knowingly entice or recruit for the purposes of sexual exploitation”. It is illegal to procure a person to:

- engage in sex work either in Queensland or elsewhere or
- leave Queensland to engage in prostitution elsewhere or
- come to Queensland for the same purpose or
- have a person leave their usual place of residence in Queensland for the purpose of engaging in prostitution, either in Queensland or elsewhere.

If you do procure someone for the purposes of prostitution it is a crime and the maximum penalty is 7 years imprisonment. If the person you procure is not an adult or is a person with an impairment of the mind you may be liable to a maximum of 14 years imprisonment.

Knowingly participating in prostitution by another - CC s229H

While working as a private sex worker (i.e. not in a licensed brothel) police may charge you if you “knowingly participate” with another person to do sex work.

You may be charged if you:

- share a premise or accommodation with another sex worker even if you do not work at the same time
- provide services with other sex workers - doubles or working in co-ops
- refer clients to other sex workers
- have a friend on the side for personal safety
- use the credit card of another person to pay for advertisements or supplies
- use another person's SIM card
- work in an unlicensed brothel
- work for an escort agency and provide sexual services
- work in a massage parlour and provide sexual services (including hand relief or 'happy ending')

The other person may be charged if they:

- provide financial assistance or other resources (e.g. credit card, phone) to enable you to carry out sex work e.g. place your ads, rent your accommodation, buy your phone
- drive you to bookings without an appropriate licence to do so
- act as a bodyguard on the premises without an appropriate licence to do so
- provide receptionist services, receiving, directing or redirecting telephone calls or other forms of messages, taking bookings or receiving money

Condoms laws in Queensland – PA s77A

It is illegal in Queensland to offer to provide sexual services to clients without the use of prophylactics (condoms, femidoms, and dams). We must use protection for all penetrative and oral sex to avoid being charged for an offence and to prevent transmission of sexually transmissible infections.

It is also illegal for clients to ask for sexual services without the use of prophylactics, interfere with, break or remove a prophylactic. A client who deliberately damages, uses or continues

to use a prophylactic that they know is damaged commits an offence and can be charged and fined by the Courts.

Be aware that police can, and do, pose as clients to entrap sex workers by asking for intercourse or oral sex without a prophylactic.

Using gloves for hand relief is a policy in licensed brothels however not a legal requirement for private sex workers in Queensland.

What is oral sex?

Oral sex has the meaning given by the Queensland Criminal Code 1899.

Section 229E (5) defines oral sex to mean:

- bringing into contact of any part of the genitalia or anus of a person with any part of the mouth of another person

What is sexual intercourse?

Sexual Intercourse has the meaning given by the Queensland Criminal Code 1899.

Section 229D defines sexual intercourse to mean:

- penetration to any extent of the vagina, vulva or anus of another person by any part of the body of another person
- penetration to any extent of the vagina, vulva or anus of a person carried out by another person using an object
- penetration does not include penetration carried out for a proper medical hygienic or law enforcement purpose

Sexual health duty of care

Under section 143 of the Public Health Act (Qld) 2005, a person must not deliberately or recklessly:

- put someone else at risk of infection of a controlled notifiable disease; or
- infect someone with a controlled notifiable disease

However, an offence is not committed if, when the other person was put at risk of the infection, the other person:

- knew the person was infected with the disease; and
- voluntarily accepted the risk of being infected

If you want to find out what a controlled notifiable disease is you can go to section 63 of the Public Health (Qld) Act 2005. Click on the link below and it will take you to the Public Health Act. <http://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/LEGISLTN/CURRENT/P/PubHealA05.pdf>

The Prostitution Act (Qld) 1999 lists what it defines as sexually transmissible diseases (infections) as any of the following:

- Chancroid

- Donovanosis
- Genital chlamydia
- Genital herpes (when lesions are visible)
- Genital warts (when lesions are visible)
- Gonorrhoea
- Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)
- Lymphogranuloma venereum
- Syphilis
- Another disease or condition prescribed under a regulation.

It is illegal and a sex worker must not work at a licensed brothel during any period in which the person knows he or she is infected with a sexually transmitted disease. It is taken that you knew you had been infected by the sexually transmissible disease unless you can show:

- medical examinations or tests have been conducted at the correct times required under the regulations; and
- it was reasonable for the sex worker to believe that he or she was not infected with the sexually transmitted disease.

Licensed brothels

It is legal to work with other sex workers in a brothel that is licensed by the Prostitution Licensing Authority. While you are working in a licensed brothel you are subject to the following rules:

- sex workers must not engage in sex work at a licensed brothel whilst infective with a sexually transmissible infection
- you must be in possession of a current sexual health certificate
- you do not need to be licensed or registered to work in a licensed brothel or as a private worker
- you need to provide identification to be sighted to prove you are over 18 years old however it is acknowledged that sex workers expect anonymity and may not choose to allow a photocopy of their identification to be taken. This is acceptable under Prostitution Licensing Authority guidelines.