

Research project on the impact of the Internet on sex workers and sex work

Participation

If you identify as a female sex worker (or former worker) who has used the Internet to advertise to work in Queensland then you are invited to participate in this study, which examines the impact of the Internet on sex workers and sex work. Workers who tour (or have toured) to Queensland are also invited to participate.

The project is in two parts and you will receive payment of \$50 for phase one and another \$50 should you choose to participate in phase two as some compensation for your time and in recognition of your expertise and knowledge of the sex industry.

The first part involves filling in a multiple-choice questionnaire by following an online link. It will take around 25 – 40 minutes to complete, and you can stop and return to the questionnaire as many times as you need to in order to complete it. It is a completely anonymous and secure online survey.

Part one of the study seeks your opinions and perspectives on issues such as industry experience, attitudes and knowledge regarding sex work including working conditions, health, wellbeing and clients. **Part two of the study** involves participating in a semi-structured interview with me. Ideally, this would be face-to-face, but could be done using Skype or telephone if you prefer. The interviews will take around an hour to an hour and a half and will consist of around half a dozen questions exploring issues around the impact of the Internet on you and the industry. **You may use a false name for the interview if you wish and you will be given an opportunity to read the transcript of your interview and make changes to it if you wish.**

Your confidentiality is assured. The study adheres to the strict guidelines for the conduct of ethical research set out by the university and is being administered through 'Qualtrics'. Data obtained through Qualtrics is collected and stored in a way that does not identify individuals and the data storage facility is held off-site in a very secure facility. The data cannot be accessed by anyone except me.

Your participation in this study is completely voluntary and may be withdrawn at any time. If you decide to withdraw your consent, then any data you have provided will be destroyed and not used in the study. **You will be able to get information about the findings of the study from me** at the email address provided below upon completion of the study in 2015, and the findings will also be provided to Respect Inc and Scarlet Alliance.

Benefits

There has been very little research done on this area of the sex industry, and the information collected will contribute to this body of knowledge and provide valuable information to sex worker organisations, such as **Respect Inc, which has endorsed this project.**

Contact

If you require more information or would like to discuss your participation in this study further, please contact me on 0403 972 339 or via email at fionab63@yahoo.com. If you would like to speak to an officer of the university who is not involved in this study, you may contact the Ethics Officer on 07 3365 3924.

Thank you for considering your contribution to this important research, which will be of benefit to internet-based sex workers and sex worker organisations.