

## INFORMATION FOR SEX WORKERS



# RespectEd

August 2013

Issue 1

## THREE YEAR MOTEL DISCRIMINATION CASE COMES TO AN END

The GK case sure got Queensland (and interstate) sex workers motivated to help her fight for all our rights but the final ruling by the Supreme Court on 17<sup>th</sup> May was disappointing.

The case of discrimination by the Drover's Rest motel in Moranbah against a private touring sex worker, first lodged with the Anti-Discrimination Commission Queensland on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2010, had its final ruling in the Supreme Court on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2013. After 3 long years, during which Queensland sex workers came together to raise \$20,500 in funds to help GK pay for legal fees, GK lost the case when the Supreme Court decided that the motel had NOT discriminated against her on the grounds of 'lawful sexual activity'. It was a tricky distinction. Legal sex workers are protected under the Anti-Discrimination Act (Old) and, following the Supreme Court ruling, that means that a landlord cannot refuse to rent accommodation to a sex worker just because they are a sex worker. But in the case of motel/hotel accommodation there was disagreement about whether it was ok for motels and hotels to evict sex workers seeing clients in the room.

Respect Inc argued that the grounds for protection is 'lawful sexual activity' and that engaging in sex work is a primary attribute that makes a person a sex worker. In the end the court ruling was a loss for GK but Queensland sex workers had already lost because on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2012 the new LNP Attorney General changed the law to grant exemption to landlords who refuse accommodation on the 'reasonable belief' that sex work is happening or is going to be conducted from the premises. On 19<sup>th</sup> July the Supreme Court ruled that GK should pay the motel's legal costs.

*Candi Forrest (Treasurer)*

### Practical outcomes of the GK case for sex workers in Queensland:

- Landlords can refuse accommodation or evict without breaching the Anti-Discrimination Act if they think you are seeing clients on the premises
- It is still legal to work privately from any premises (incl motels, hotels, apartments and houses) as long as you are not working with someone else

### Timeline of the GK case:

*12<sup>th</sup> July 2010*

Complaint lodged by GK with ADCO

*25<sup>th</sup> October 2011*

GK loses case heard by QCAT (Old Civil and Administrative Tribunal)

GK lodges appeal with QCAT

*31<sup>st</sup> July 2012*

GK wins appeal with QCAT

*28<sup>th</sup> August 2012*

Motel lodges appeal against the appeal to Supreme Court

*1<sup>st</sup> November 2012*

Attorney General tables changes to law (Anti-Discrimination Act Old)

*17<sup>th</sup> May 2013*

Supreme Court rules that motel did not discriminate

*19<sup>th</sup> July 2013*

Supreme Court rules that GK must pay motel's legal costs

### Contents

Motel Discrimination	1
Cairns	2
Gold Coast	2
Brisbane	3
Culturally Diverse	3
Townsville	3
Australia and the	4
Blast from the Past	5
Sexual Health Clinics	5
Industry Tips & Tricks	5
Health Tips & Tricks	6
Key Contacts	6

### What is discrimination against a sex worker?

'Lawful sexual activity' under the Anti-Discrimination Act Queensland means legal sex work so if you are a private sex worker or you work in a licensed brothel it is discrimination to refuse you services or treat you less favourably (incl. in education and accommodation) on the basis that you are a sex worker.

If you think you have been discriminated against contact Respect Inc or the ADCO on 1300 130 670 to discuss it.

**NO BAD WHORES JUST BAD LAWS**

## STATE OF RESPECT FROM THE STAFF

## Cairns

If you are in Cairns and looking for friendly, peer support Respect Inc is your one stop shop. We provide safer sex advice, peer support and general workplace health and safety information. Our office is located Shop 7, 24 Florence St (directly opposite Trinity Ford) and we open Tuesday to Friday (1-3pm) and. Our staff offers a supportive environment and loads of information about Cairns, accommodation, advertising and safer workplace practices for those visiting or staying long term.

Recently, the Prostitution Enforcement Task Force (PETF) visited Cairns. PETF support the Prostitution Licensing Authority (PLA) to monitor unlawful prostitution, illegal brothels and advertising practices. All sex workers should be aware of their rights and obligations to work legally under current Queensland legislation. If you are unsure about certain terms of legislation in Queensland Respect Inc has factsheets available. If you require peer advocacy and support please contact the Cairns office during office hours (Tuesday-Friday) on 4051 5009.

We now have two legal brothels. Recently opened is the Oriental Doll which has opened in the premises of the Forbidden Apple which closed a few years ago.

**Oriental Doll**

7 Owen Close

Ph: (07) 4033 5955

**Northern Belle**

11 Cava Close

Ph: (07) 4033 5955

The Cairns office is also looking for a people to join a group self defence class on Wednesday nights. If you are interested in learning a few basic defence skills from a trained professional, call Tabitha on 0413571394.

*Tabitha (Cairns Peer Educator)*



Been too long between bookings? (From Hooker's Herald, issue 1, June 1989)

## Gold Coast

I'm Jane Goodwin, the new Peer Educator based on the Gold Coast. I'm very excited and honoured to start my new role and can't wait to get to know more about Respect and its wider community of sex workers.

Over the past month we have been working hard to renew and develop our strong relationships with allied health agencies on the Coast to create a stronger network of professionals that are here to provide support to sex workers. One exciting free health program provided by the Miami Sexual Health Clinic is the "Pee and Flee Express Clinic" which provides on the spot chlamydia screening to most Queenslanders. The Clinic also provides a more comprehensive "FAST Service" screening test for STIs which is free for men who have sex with men. Testing includes a throat swab for gonorrhoea, rectal swab for chlamydia and gonorrhoea, urine test for chlamydia and blood test for HIV and syphilis. These are great non-fuss, non invasive tests that can be performed in a matter of minutes and can help us monitor and maintain our sexual health. If you want further information please call the Miami Sexual Health Clinic on 5576 9033 to discuss.

For those sex workers new to the industry our Respect Inc. office in Southport provides "New Worker Workshops" where we can sit down and discuss health, safety, legal and business matters with you in a confidential environment free from judgement. From September, New Worker Workshops will be held at 2:00pm on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month at 4 Bay Street, Southport. Alternatively you can call 0401 969 233 to arrange a private appointment at a time convenient to you. New Workers who attend the office also receive a free "New Worker Sexual Health Pack" which includes great information and some samples of the supplies that we sell such as condoms, lube and dams. If you're new to the industry, I encourage you to come in for a chat.

Monica, our Bilingual Peer Educator, has been busy making connections and providing assistance to some of our CaLD (Culturally and Linguistically Diverse) sex workers across the Coast. We have a range of resources that are available in Chinese, Thai, Korean and Vietnamese.

Over the past six to twelve months we have all witnessed the rise in violent crime on the Gold Coast. While sex work can sometimes feel isolating, especially if you are working as a sole operator, it is important to remember that the sex worker community is a close knit one and there are a number of other sex workers out there just like you. If you have a problem with a client we encourage you to report it to us or to the police. If you know a sex worker that is struggling, for what ever reason, let them know we are here to help and can provide a range of support and referral services. If you just need someone to talk to, know we are always here to listen. Let's all work together to ensure the Gold Coast sex worker community is safe in the lead up to summer.

Look forward to meeting you soon

*Jane (Gold Coast Peer Educator)*

## STATE OF RESPECT FROM THE STAFF

### Brisbane

Brisbane hosted a great event related to the sex industry, Sexpo. Sexpo is a yearly event in Brisbane and was held at Brisbane Convention Centre. It is getting better and bigger every year. The event was a huge success with thousands of people walking through the door. It is a very important event not to be missed by Respect Inc.

Respect Inc would like to send it's personal thank to OPP (Queensland Positive People) who gave Respect Inc a chance to participate in Sexpo. Respect Inc would also like to take the opportunity to thank to our volunteer who gave valuable time to help out, especially as it was a last minute arrangement.



At Sexpo we gave out show bags and information to a lot of people. We hope they digest this information and hope it reaches the people who need it most. The atmosphere was great and people were very friendly and helpful.

In the future we hope we can participate in more events like this, so we can spread the word about what we do and who we are.

*Joe (Brisbane Peer Educator)*



### Culturally Diverse

Hi I'm Monica. I'm the Bilingual Peer Educator based on the Gold Coast. I specialise in working with sex workers who are Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD). From my outreach work with CALD sex workers it is apparent that the industry is very quiet and lots of sex workers are looking for more work. This down turn may be caused by a combination of factors. Its winter and the nights have been a little chillier than usual. As a result of this year's bad weather, high tides and damage to the beach, tourism has been in decline on the Gold Coast. Ongoing light rail construction around the CBD and increased congestion on the roads has also meant fewer bookings for workers. More sex workers are considering working interstate or abroad to increase their income. Let's hope the Summer brings more visitors to the Coast, more bookings and more money for us all.

C A L D - 字 街  
嗨，我是莫妮卡。我是根據在黃金海岸的雙語同伴教育。我專門工作與性工作者是不同文化和語言（CALD）。CALD性工作者從我的外展工作，很明顯，這個行業是非常安靜，很多性工作者正在尋找更多的工作。這樣下來可以依次由多種因素造成的。冬季，夜晚已經有點涼颼颼比平時。由於今年天氣不好，漲潮和破壞海灘的結果，旅遊業一直在下降，在黃金海岸。正在進行輕軌建設也意味著圍繞“生物多樣性公約”，並增加對道路擁堵減少工人的預訂。更多的性工作者正在考慮工作州際或國外有增加收入。讓我們希望為我們所有的夏天帶來更多的遊客，更多的訂單，更多的錢。

*Monica (Bilingual Peer Educator)*

### Townsville

Hi All, Well Townsville has seen some highlights and real lowlights.

I am happy to report that an UGLY MUG has been arrested thanks to the Asian sex worker community being brave enough to make statements to the police.

Work in Townsville has decreased and it is safe to say the mining boom has been depleted here.

The Central Old sex workers are reporting work slacking off as well due to retrenchments in the mining sector.

The Townsville V8's saw thousands of visitors come for the weekend and workers reported an increase in trade.

We are currently working on creating a poster for your workrooms for the clients to simply understand that condoms are used for sexual services. Thanks to all for their input and effort so far. If you have any ideas or would like to participate in the production of the poster, please feel free to contact Michele on 07 47244853.

*Michele (Northern Regional Coordinator)*

## FEATURES FROM THE STAFF

### Australia and the World

#### Working Legally Overseas

Ever wondered about working legally overseas? Some sex workers choose to holiday, live and work in other countries. While this approach is not for everyone, migrant sex work can allow you to travel while earning money (plus you might even be considered exotic in another country!) If you're well travelled and prepared to tackle a new kind of adventure, here are some basic tips to get you started.

**1. Research specific countries laws and regulations:** Many countries place sex work under one of the following legal frameworks: complete criminalisation, partial criminalisation, decriminalisation or legalisation. It is important to research and understand what specific rules and laws that model entails. Although most research can be conducted online, the best way to ensure you get up-to-date advice is to contact the countries embassy or speak with other sex workers who are currently working in the country. Check these links before you get started:

- 100 countries and their prostitution policies: <http://prostitution.procon.org/view.resource.php?resourceID=000772>
- Embassies in Australia <http://www.dfat.gov.au/embassies.html>

**2. Get help applying for your visa:** Some Australian's are fortunate to have dual citizenship which allows them to work in other countries, however, most people will need to obtain a work visa. Enlisting the help of a visa support service will ensure your documents and details are filled out correctly. Remember, some immigration legislation may prevent you from participating in sex work under the conditions of the visa. Therefore, knowing your rights under immigration as well as government legislation is vital. For more advice on Australian visas required abroad: [www.immi.gov.au](http://www.immi.gov.au) If you would like to apply for an Australian or New Zealand visa, WorkPermit.com can help. Visit WorkPermit.com

**3. Before you travel overseas** scope out sexual health and support services! In countries like England, Canada and New Zealand sexual health services can be free. Before leaving the country, try to establish links and gather contact details of sex worker support projects, Women's Aid, police, health services. In places where sex work is partially criminalised you might have to rely on sex worker networks and word of mouth to find certain sex worker friendly support organisations.

**4. Working in another culture:** While working in countries similar to Australia (such as the UK or New Zealand) work spaces and clients will not vary much from what you're used to at home. However, some countries can provide a number of cultural challenges, such as strict dress codes in public and different cultural expectations about sex! A good tip is to get to know locals and enrol in a language course! Currency and specific language related to sexual health might be helpful and even if your client speaks English and can relieve some awkwardness due to the language barrier.

**5. Health and wellbeing:** Sex work can be stressful even while working in a holiday destination! Learning another culture, language and currency while trying to maintain work hours and budget can leave you burned out and it's important to take regular breaks and make sure you take time to look after your health.

Travelling and working overseas is not an option for everyone, but when done right it can be an extremely rewarding adventure of a different kind and sometimes the road less travelled can be the more fun one!

*Tabitha (Cairns Peer Educator)*

### Respect Inc AGM Notice

We are having our AGM in Cairns on 2nd October 2013. Please visit our website [www.respectqld.org.au](http://www.respectqld.org.au) for details



There are always options for Workers:  
Take your pick, the condom or the doll!  
(From Hooker's Herald, issue 1, June 1989)

We would love to have your input into our newsletter. If you have any suggestions, news, stories or other contributions, please contact us at [info@respectqld.org.au](mailto:info@respectqld.org.au) with "newsletter" in the subject line

## Blast from the Past



### THINGS HAVE COME A LONG WAY

Who remembers the 'Gynaeseal'? The diaphragm tampon all in one was marketed in the first SQWISI magazine, "Hooker's Herald" June 1989 as the next big thing for sex workers. Developed by Dr John Cattnach in Melbourne, the device was intended to allow couples to have unmessy sex during menstruation. The device was designed to remain in place by suction during intercourse, catching the menstrual blood in the attached latex sack. Surprising the invention did not have success in the marketplace and are no longer available for sale.

If you are looking for a way to work while you have your period, don't forget that Respect has **Beppy and Sax sponges** for sale through our Offices or Mail Order. Please contact us for more details.

*Jane (Gold Coast Peer Educator)*

## Sexual Health Clinics

At Respect Inc, we make STI prevention our top priority. We want to make sure all of our service users have best and hopefully cheap places to go when they need to do the STI check.

The recent closure of Biala Clinic has a huge impact on Brisbane sex workers. At the moment sex workers still can go to certain places in Brisbane to get the sexual health certificate. These places can be free or bulk billed for the local resident with a medicare card. However if you are international citizens, it can be costly. Please contact Respect office for details of the clinics.

However Respect Inc is in negotiation with one clinic. We hope to negotiate one day a week that any sex worker can visit that clinic for a sexual health check sexual health certificate for free, privately and confidentially. Once we finalise our negotiation we will post on our website. Please visit our website in the next few weeks or call respect staff in Brisbane.

Respect website is [www.respectqld.org.au](http://www.respectqld.org.au)  
Or our Tel: 07 3835 1111

*Joe (Brisbane Peer Educator)*

## Industry Tips and Tricks

### Bookkeeping & Income Tax

It's that time of the year again! We have all seen the EOFYS sales on the TV. This means one thing - Tax time. A time of year celebrated by some and dreaded by many.

For all sex workers that file a yearly income tax return it's important to know that the deadline for filing your tax return is 31 October 2013. Tax returns can now be lodged online using the E-tax program available from the ATO website at [www.ato.gov.au](http://www.ato.gov.au).

If you are hesitant to list your occupation as "sex worker", some job titles you could consider include personal assistant, performing artist, entertainer or sales demonstrator.

In order to complete your tax you must keep track of your income. You don't need to have the names and numbers of clients but you do need to have how much you have earned each day, week and month. This may have been recorded in a diary, your phone or an excel spreadsheet.

As long as you earn under \$75,000pa then you should not need an ABN. A rule of thumb is that you should be setting aside 15% of any income between \$18,200 - \$75,000 (for tax purposes). If you earn more than \$75,000, speak with your accountant or the ATO about your situation.

Deductible items that sex workers can claim include:

- Anything that is used in your production including condoms, lube, toys, costumes, lingerie, make up etc. Anything that you purchase specifically for your work.
- Mobile phone expenses (this includes the purchase of handsets)
- Advertising expenses and the cost of running your website
- Home office expenses including computers and equipment, phones, stationary etc.
- Travel expenses to and from appointments. This includes personal vehicle costs and taxi fares.
- The cost of preparing your tax return such as the use of an accountant.

If you work from your primary place of residence as a sole operator taking in-calls you may also be able to claim a percentage of your rent, electricity and water costs, internet and landline rental costs and towels and laundry powder purchased for use by clients. If you have a space you use only for business (and not as a residence) such as a studio apartment, there may be additional items you can claim such as furnishings. Make sure you hold on to any records and receipts for a minimum of five years.

*This information should not be taken as legal or financial advice. Please contact your accountant or the ATO for further information.*

*Jane (Gold Coast Peer Educator)*

## Health Tips and Tricks

### Burnout

Burnout is common among anyone working with people, like social workers, counsellors and of course sex workers. Providing a service to others can be very draining unless you have developed some strategies for coping. Often people who put a lot of effort into their work become burnt out.

Preventing burnout as a sex worker can be really difficult; it requires you to make an effort every day. Many sex workers find if they can lead a balanced life by finding the right amount of hours to work and maintaining boundaries, they can stay physically, mentally and emotionally happier.

### Tips

- Develop and maintain a balance between work and personal life.
- Work reasonable hours and avoid working double shifts if you're in a brothel or all day and night if you're a sole operator.
- Have realistic expectations of yourself and others.
- Talk to someone you trust about what's going on for you, whether it's a friend who knows you work, a counsellor or other sex workers who are your friends.
- If possible, avoid going over time with clients and not charging them for it. There is nothing like a client to suck the life out of you, and on top of that if you aren't charging them for it, you can become cranky at yourself and resentful of clients in general.

### What are the warning signs that you've gone into the danger zone of burnout or gone beyond burnout?

- feeling depressed
- unmanageable anxiety levels
- hating clients
- wanting to harm clients
- higher than tolerable stress levels

If you find yourself experiencing these symptoms, it's time to speak to someone about what's going on if you're not someone who can drag yourself out of it once you recognise it.

Call Respect Inc, get in contact with a counsellor, go to your local sexual health clinic and let them know and they can give you a referral to someone you can talk to.

Everyone's point of burnout is different, the trick is to know yours and know what you can do to cope with it and make yourself better.

*Michele (Northern Regional Coordinator)*

## Key Contacts

### Respect Inc

[info@respectqld.org.au](mailto:info@respectqld.org.au) [www.respectqld.org.au](http://www.respectqld.org.au)

7/24 Florence St, Cairns, Qld 4870

Ph 07 4051 5009, Open Tues-Fri, 1pm-3pm.

**Tabitha:** mob 0413 571 394, [cpe@respectqld.org.au](mailto:cpe@respectqld.org.au)

118a Charters Towers Rd, Townsville, Qld 4812

Ph 07 4724 4853, Open Tues – Fri 1pm-3pm.

**Michele:** mob 0416 987 011, [nrc@respectqld.org.au](mailto:nrc@respectqld.org.au)

28 Mein St, Spring Hill, Brisbane, Qld 4000

Ph 07 3835 1111, Open Mon-Fri 9am-5pm

**Joe** mob 0424 657 064, [joe@respectqld.org.au](mailto:joe@respectqld.org.au) (Male; Can speak Vietnamese/ Việt)

**Annie** mob 0451 149 782, [src@respectqld.org.au](mailto:src@respectqld.org.au) (Transgender)

4 Bay St, Southport, Gold Coast, Qld 4215

Ph 07 5657 0857, Open Mon-Thurs 9am-5pm

**Jane:** mob 0401 969 223, [gcpe@respectqld.org.au](mailto:gcpe@respectqld.org.au)

**Monica** mob 0432 367 598 [monica@respectqld.org.au](mailto:monica@respectqld.org.au) (Can speak Chinese/中國)

### Sexual Health Clinics

<http://www.health.qld.gov.au/sexhealth/help/>

<http://www.health.qld.gov.au/sexhealth/panic.asp>

### Government

Prostitution Licensing Authority (PLA), 07 3858 9500, <http://www.pla.qld.gov.au/>

Prostitution Enforcement Task Force, (PETF), 07 3426 1888, <http://www.police.qld.gov.au/>

### Other Sex Worker Organisations

Scarlet Alliance, Australia & TAS 02 9690 0551

<http://www.scarletalliance.org.au>

S.W.O.P., NSW, 02 9206 2166, <http://www.swop.org.au>

RhED, VIC, 3 9534 8166, <http://www.sexworker.org.au/>

S.W.O.P., ACT, , <http://www.aidsaction.org.au/swop>

S.I.N., SA, 08 83517626, <http://www.sin.org.au/>

Magenta, WA, 08 9328 1387, <http://www.magenta.org.au>

S.W.O.P., NT, 08 8944 7777,

<http://www.ntahc.org.au/programs/sex-worker-outreach-program>

NZPC, NZ, (+644) 382 8791, <http://www.nzpc.org.nz>