

# Sexual assault: Supporting another sex worker

It is important for sex workers to be clear that sexual assault is not a part of a sex worker's job.

Sexual assault, or rape, is about violence, power and control - not sex or intimacy. Sex work is about providing a service (sex) in return for payment. Violence has no place in a sex worker's work conditions.

### How you can help

If another worker or a friend has been sexually assaulted or raped, you can offer help and support by taking the following steps:

- Get the victim to a safe place.
- Listen to the victim if they want to tell you what happened. Believe them. You don't have to say anything back. Listening and being supportive can be enough.
- Do not judge, blame or criticise. They are not to blame. Please do not say:  
"Why didn't you do this?" or  
"How did you let this happen?"

- Help to make contact with a sexual assault service. If they are having difficulty coping with the situation and seem lost or disillusioned, make sure they are not left alone until you have been able to get professional or trusted help.
- Support any decision that they have to make. They may need medical attention or want to report the assault to the police. It will be important to let them know that they are safe with you.

### Useful contacts

Statewide Sexual Assault Help Line  
1800 010 120 (24 hours)