

Glyde Health in support of continued decriminalisation of NSW sex industry_2011

December 2011

To the NSW Premier, the Hon Barry O'Farrell and Minister for Health, Hon Jillian Skinner,

As proprietors of GLYDE Health, an Australian owned company which manufactures and distributes sexual health products, we are appalled at the proposed legislative changes which will mandate licensing for NSW brothels.

We believe that the current model of decriminalisation has resulted in best practice for NSW brothels. We know, from our work with organisations such as the SWOP (Sex Workers Outreach Program) and our sales of sexual health products into NSW brothels, that decriminalisation has resulted in sex workers routinely using protection at work.

We know that the legislative changes enacted in both QLD and Victoria, have resulted in sex workers operating in at-risk environments – at risk from both physical attack and unsafe sexual practices.

The sex industry in NSW has shown without question that it can manage and regulate its practices perfectly well by itself, without interference from government or law enforcement. Indeed it seems to us that whenever law enforcement or regulators get involved, the result is dreadful.

We strongly urge you to leave well enough alone – let the NSW sex industry continue to operate as it does today. The health and well being of thousands of sex workers depend on it.

Yours faithfully,

Fiona Stewart and Clive Woodworth
Directors

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