

DECRIM IN SA

AN UPDATE ON THE PUSH TO DECRIMINALISE SEX WORK IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The Bill Passes the Upper House

On Thursday the 20th of June the Statutes Amendment (Decriminalisation of Sex Work) Bill 2018 introduced by Greens MP Tammy Franks MLC passed the Legislative Council with amendments. This was the second time the bill has passed the Legislative Council. It previously passed in 2017 but was delayed and did not receive attention in the Lower House before SA's election. The Bill passed this time with overwhelming support (14-7 in favour) and there were many positive contributions made during debates by Tammy Franks, Mark Parnell, Michelle Lensink, Connie Bonaros and Irene Pnevmatikos.

The successful amendments make it an offence to employ child for a purpose related to provision of commercial sexual services, give police powers to enter a premises used for commercial sexual services if they have "reasonable cause" to suspect that an offence has been committed or is about to be committed, dictate that a review of decriminalisation will be undertaken at the third year anniversary and placed restrictions on public signage & restricted unsolicited leaflets detailing sexual services.

The Bill was Introduced to the Lower House

On Wednesday the 31st of July Attorney General Vickie Chapman and ALP member for Reynella Katrine Hildyard introduced the Statutes Amendment (Decriminalisation of Sex Work) Bill 2018 into the Lower House. Vickie Chapman spoke of the need to

"provide the predominantly female and often highly vulnerable cohort the opportunity to be afforded basic healthcare, report instances of abuse to the police, seek work opportunities and contribute to society"

Katrine Hildyard spoke about her consultations and relationships with sex workers in her community. She powerfully addressed issues of rights, equality and safety for the workers of the sex industry in South Australia.

"I am driven to do this with and for all, and for a range of reasons I have particularly worked with women to engender their leadership, their voice, their power, because women are still not equal in terms of how they are empowered to participate in community life, in work, in politics or in our economy"



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Things are heating up

The third reading of the decrim bill takes place on September 25th. SIDAC and its support organisation have been working with SA's Sex Industry Network (SIN) to contact members of the House of Assembly to discuss the bill. Of course, there is intense lobbying from our opposition. A vocal ALP member of the Legislative Council ALP Clare Scriven has brought two international workers over to meet with MPs and talk of the "violence associated with penetrative sexual services" claiming that paid consent is not consent. The Australian Christian Lobby are targeting constituents with robocalls that have limited response options and of course SAPOL have now publicly stated they do not support decriminalisation due to fears of rampant illicit drugs trafficking and exploitation of the workforce by organised crime groups. This misinformation, these myths and stereotypes are nothing sex workers have not dealt with before and will not stop us from campaigning for our human and workers fights!

What Can We Do?

Currently SIDAC need constituents to reach out to their members in support of decriminalisation. We have contact details and letter templates to help anyone that gets in contact.

If you want to reach out to any or ALL members of the House of Assembly - SIDAC is here to help. Email: coordinator.sidac@gmail.com

SIDAC also need funds because we can't beat giants like SAPOL and the Australian Christian Lobby without them. We currently have a Go Fund Me going and appreciate any donations!



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