

# Chinese Sex Workers in Australia

## 2006-2007 Survey

### 個人資料 Demographics

在家鄉的職業  
**31% 工人**  
had been sex workers in China

年齡  
**69% 31<**  
或以上

### 你在澳洲期間從何得到所需的資訊? Accessing Services in Australia

**50%**  
accessed sex worker organisations

性健康中心  
**84%**  
accessed sexual health clinics

### 法律知識 Knowledge of the law

**81% 公平**  
believe the laws in Australia are fair

是否清楚自己享有的法律權利?  
**74%**  
were clear on their rights

會否再來澳洲工作  
**75% 會**  
hope to come back to Australia again

### CUSTOMERS

Half of the participants (51%) of sex workers saw between 4 and 6 customers per day. Others saw 3 (15%), between 7-9 (26%) or 10 (8%). Almost all (92%) participants saw clients in Australia who are not from a Chinese background. 70% spoke English at work, 50% spoke Mandarin and 17% spoke Cantonese. Most sex workers (68%) saw clients who visited them regularly. While more than half (61%) worked more than 8 hours per day, a sizable percentage (35%) worked less than 8 hours.

### 職業健康及安全 Occupational Health and Safety

如何處理上述情況  
**51% 報警**  
would call the police if sexually assaulted in Australia

### 工作時遇到的問題 Problems while working

在你工作的地方你遇到过暴力事件吗  
**66% 否**  
have never been sexually assaulted at work

當懷疑自己患上性病時，你會如何處理?  
**93% 求醫**  
go to the doctor for STI check-ups same as Australian-born sex workers

### CONFIDENTIALITY

Anti-trafficking initiatives seek witnesses for criminal prosecution from Chinese sex workers in Australia. While not illegal, migrant sex workers fear detection and deportation as a result of anti-trafficking measures. Thus community researchers felt unable to illicit migration data without compromising future peer education HIV prevention work. Methodology was required to overcome this ethical issue. The Australian-based multilingual Chinese speaking health educators, who were also researchers on this project, redesigned the survey for the Australian setting. This included use of 'optimal' questions for issues of ethical concern. Surveys were self-completed and anonymous and consent was given orally rather than signed. More than 55% of participants completed the optional sections, relating to migration pathways.

### METHODOLOGY

In April 2006 Zi Teng (Hong Kong) approached Scarlet Alliance to assist with a survey of Chinese Sex Workers in Australia. The Scarlet Migration Working Party Chinese-Speaking sub-committee focus tested and amended the survey, and produced Chinese language consent agreements. Ethics approval was granted by ACON and Inner-South Community Health Service. MOU's were signed with participating organisations. Surveys were collected in Sydney by SWOP (29), in Adelaide by SIN (13) in Melbourne by RhED, SWOP, SIN and Zi Teng (1) and in Canberra by Zi Teng and SWOP ACT (0).