

Harm Reduction Strategies For Sex Workers in Australia



ISSUE

Formed in 1989, Scarlet Alliance, The Australian Sex Workers' Association, represents sex workers and community based sex worker organisations, projects, networks and groups at a national level. Through its objectives, policies and programs, Scarlet Alliance aims to achieve equality and social, legal, political, cultural, health and economic justice for past and present workers in the sex industry. A best practice philosophy guides each and every project, utilising four key strategies that inform all harm reduction work: community engagement; community development; health promotion and peer education.

SETTING

Scarlet Alliance is an autonomous sex worker organisation with all paid and unpaid positions, voting delegates and elected office bearer roles held by former or current sex workers. Direct sex worker participation is facilitated through: e-lists, website, working parties, teleconferences, community forums, media, public forums, marches, demonstrations, commemorative events, a sex worker magazine, funded projects and an Annual National Conference.

PROJECT

Evidence shows that peer education is the most effective way to share new knowledge and skills with sex workers, allowing sex workers to become engaged in harm reduction activities in a supportive environment free of stigma and discrimination. Scarlet Alliance encourages this through professional development of Peer Educators in Australia: the Scarlet Alliance National Training Project. Other projects include: Chlamydia and Sexual Health (CASH) project, sex worker magazine (ProVision), scarletmen.org.au website and a HIV positive sex worker needs analysis project. Scarlet Alliance helped facilitate the development of Friends Frangipani Association – Papua New Guinea sex worker organisation.

OUTCOMES

These projects show the range and diversity of harm reduction strategies that can be utilized to ensure the voices and needs of sex workers are authentically represented in policy development, service delivery and education. Scarlet Alliance create innovative opportunities to engage sex workers, allowing for diverse and meaningful participation in all areas of the organisation.

BREAKING NEWS: 1000 of Australia's best and brightest have been chosen to take part in the Australia 2020 Summit. We are proud to announce that Elena Jeffreys, President, Scarlet Alliance has been selected to attend, assuring that the voice of Australian Sex Workers will be heard by the Federal Government of Australia

