



Joint Statement on Return to Work for Sex Workers in NSW

The New South Wales Government has announced some easing of restrictions for a range of industries closed by the COVID-19 lockdowns. Under the current Public Health Order, all sex service premises are to remain closed. It is our understanding that this restriction will be relaxed on July 1 on the condition that premises have a COVID-19 Safety Plan in place, a template for which will be provided through the [NSW Government COVID safe website](#). If the Government makes any changes to this date, sex workers will be notified immediately.

Scarlet Alliance, Australian Sex Workers Association and Sex Workers Outreach Project (SWOP) NSW urge the NSW Government to end restrictions on the operation of sex workers and all sex industry businesses, including brothels and strip clubs, by July 1st.

Sex workers have responded proactively to COVID-19, including through the adoption of workplace harm reduction measures, and it is essential that sex workers are able to return to work at the same time as other comparable industries. It is our hope that other state and territory governments will follow the example of NSW and enable sex workers, many of whom have been unable to access Federal and state and territory income support measures, to return to work at or before 1 July.

In order to begin operations, sex service premises will be required to prepare a NSW COVID-19 Safety Plan. These plans must be in place by the 1st of July in order to begin trading. The plan covers service provider and client wellbeing, physical distancing requirements, hygiene and cleaning, and record keeping for contact tracing.

Further information about the plans and compliance measures is still being confirmed. Scarlet Alliance and SWOP NSW will be collaborating on an online peer education event to assist individual sex workers to complete the necessary documentation, the details of which will be provided in sex worker peer spaces. To understand what will need to be included in the plans, please see the current [NSW general COVID-19 safety plan template](#), with a sex-industry specific plan to be available soon.

If NSW sex workers have any questions or concerns about this, please contact

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