



**Australian  
Sex Workers  
Association**



**Joint statement on the reopening of NSW sex services premises  
Issued 29 June 2020**

**Re: Return to work:**

On 16 June 2020, Scarlet Alliance and SWOP NSW released a [statement](#) to community regarding return to work plans for sex services premises. We had been advised by the NSW Department Premier and Cabinet and the Health Minister's Office that the NSW Government had nominated a 1 July date for allowing industries that had remained closed to re-open for businesses. A COVID-19 Safety Plan checklist was being developed for sex services premises at that time, and we advised based on the knowledge we were given about who would be responsible for preparation of those plans.

In the weeks since, Scarlet Alliance successfully advocated for the exclusion of strip clubs and brothels from stage three of the Federal roadmap to be removed, and most other states and territories have announced dates for sex industry businesses to begin trading.

It was expected that the NSW changes to the premises closures would be announced over the last few days. We are deeply disappointed to see that this announcement has not yet occurred and urge the NSW Government to provide this to the public. Scarlet Alliance and SWOP NSW are working to obtain further clarification from the NSW Government regarding the easing of restrictions, and will release this information to the sex worker community as soon as it is available.

Without a revision to the Public Health order (Movements and Gatherings) by Tuesday 30th June, sex services premises and strip clubs will be required to remain closed until such a revision is announced. There are no restrictions on private sex work.

**Re: COVID Safety Plans**

When the date for re-opening sex services premises and strip clubs is confirmed, those premises will need to have a COVID-19 Safety Plan completed before they can begin trading. COVID-19 Safety Plans must be written in consultation with everyone who works at the premises using the appropriate COVID-19 Safe Checklist.

A generic COVID-19 Safe Checklist is available on the NSW government website at <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/covid-safe-businesses>. SWOP NSW has consulted on the Final Draft version of the NSW sex services premises checklist, which we understand will

form the basis of the NSW COVID-19 Sex Services Safety Plan. When the checklist is released by the Government, we will post it in peer spaces immediately.

SWOP NSW will be running a workshop for sex workers this Wednesday, 1 July 2020 from 4:00pm to 6:00pm for sex workers planning to return to working in sex services premises. The workshop is aimed at assisting sex workers in consulting with brothel and club owners and managers on writing the COVID-19 Safe Plan for premises.

This workshop is for sex workers only. Owners and management staff (including receptionists) are urged to encourage sex worker staff to attend this workshop. Sex workers can contact SWOP NSW to register.

The NSW Government updates its COVID-19 information daily at <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/latest-news-and-updates>.

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

- SWOP on [swopconnect@swop.org.au](mailto:swopconnect@swop.org.au) 02 9206 2166
- Scarlet Alliance on [info@scarletalliance.org.au](mailto:info@scarletalliance.org.au) or 02 9517 2577