



**Australian
Sex Workers
Association**

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LASH Chief Investigators

Dear Kit, Basil, Chris, Sandra, and John,

Scarlet Alliance wishes to advise that we are withdrawing from the LASH Reference Panel. Scarlet Alliance has not been involved as a partner in the LASH research and the level of consultation has not been productive.

As discussed at previous meetings neither Scarlet Alliance, nor our individual representatives have been informed of a range of issues relevant to Reference group members over the course of the project. As a result Scarlet Alliance considers our ability to effectively advocate for sex workers has been reduced. The lack of information on the progress and activities being conducted as part of the LASH research places Scarlet Alliance in a position which we feel is untenable.

Whilst Scarlet Alliance may still offer our expertise to the research on a case-by-case basis, we are withdrawing from the Reference Group and wish for our name not to be used in connection with the research.

It is understood that since the last LASH meeting, the involvement of researchers about whom we had raised genuine objections has continued, albeit at a distance from the Associates. This is unsatisfactory, and has been identified as a risk to Scarlet Alliance and our reputation with sex workers. We are unwilling to continue to appear to be taking this risk through the endorsement that our involvement on the Reference Panel implies, when, in fact, we have not been able to participate effectively.

Scarlet Alliance believes that an effective consultation and partnership approach with our Organisation as the National Peak organisation representing sex workers would have resulted in substantial positive outcomes for the LASH project. We are disappointed to have had to make this decision, but do so in the best interest of our organisation.

Yours faithfully,

**Elena Jeffreys,
President**