COMMENTS FROM MALES IN THE SEX INDUSTRY

"The sex industry was an alternative avenue for me and a friend to try out the Gay scene and Gay sex."

"There seems to be this elitism amongst active male sex workers – especially Gay males – they have this attitude towards bisexuals that I can't understand."

"When I first started, my knowledge of HIV/ AIDS was limited."

"I won't go with a client if he doesn't wear a condom."

"One client gave me the money – I did the work. When I finished he picked up a bit of wood and whacked me around the head with it and took his money back."

"I personally think that all male sex workers need a support group."

"Well, the truth of the matter is, I am really a private person at heart and I am not sure I have the courage to declare my vocation publicly – However, it's great to know that we in society have some support – even for 'closets' like myself. Thanks a lot for the friendship, material and the education."

"My family are fully aware of my involvement in the sex industry as an active male sex worker."

"I will only do hand jobs or blow jobs but no anal."

"I really had no choice – it was my only means of financial support."

"I want the good things in life and at the moment I am getting them from my Trade."

"I occasionally get a client who doesn't want to wear a condom. There was one case where I was offered more money if I agreed not to (I was tempted to do it!) — but I thought why should I compromise my

health for a few extra bucks—its just ain't worth it!"

"I don't associate with anyone else within the industry because I don't know anyone."

"NZPC is a friendly environment – comradeship and support"

"I'm an artist and a prostitute."

"It has screwed me up mentally!"

"I don't believe there was this type of group specifically dealing with male sex workers. I have to admit I was sceptical at first, but I am glad I made the effort."

"I don't know why, but in the majority of cases, the reaction from people is one of disdain, disgust, and usually one if instantly looked down on!"

"I think that life is a learning process and to me nothing is a mistake. In life there is no point in being a victim — you can learn so much in the Industry, and it should have all the support from society as a whole."

"Practise safer sex - absolutely!!"

Hi, My name is John and I work with the male sex workers in Auckland. I work in the evenings on Pitt St, K Rd, handing out free condoms, safe sex information and listening to the male sex workers concerns. "Take a Break" drop in centre in Pitt St is also available to male sex workers as a place to relax, with free tea, coffee, condoms and educational material. John Draper's Art Gallery 10 Beresford St is also an outreach with free condoms and literature. I work in the office of NZPC 76 Grafton Rd from 10 am to 4pm on Wednesdays. I am also available to travel to escort agencies and parlours to meet with male sex workers and listen to their concerns. I can be contacted by phoning 366 6106. An answerphone is available to leave a confidential message for me if you wish. From John NZPC Auckland

