



Sex Work: Lessons from Australia

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IUSTIAP Sexual Health Congress 2018 | Auckland | 3 Nov 18



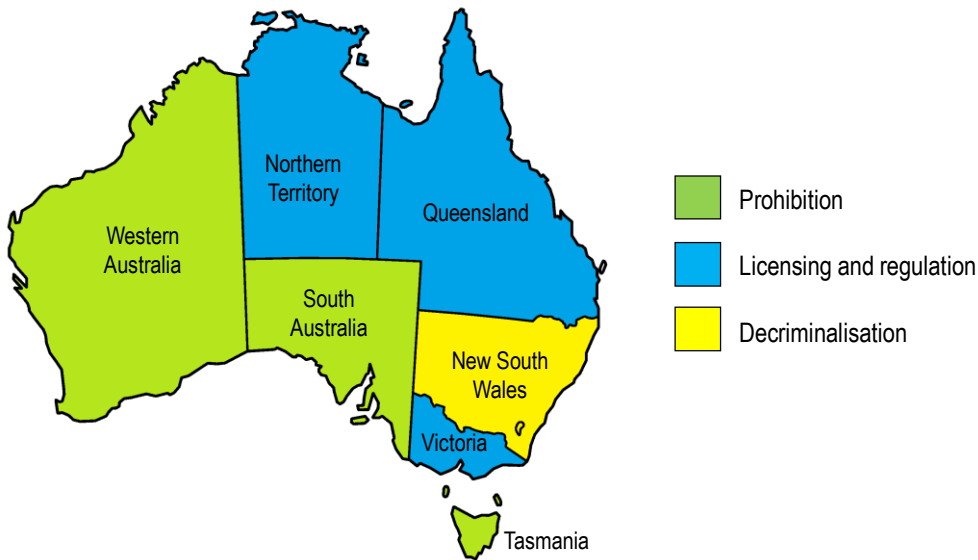
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Sex work in Australia



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Prohibition



- Most common legislative response to prostitution
- Strong moral content
- Assumes prohibition will lead to disappearance of prostitution from society
- Violation of human dignity, or moral or religious arguments for prohibition
- Fosters corruption and crime
- Poor access to health care, contraceptives and condoms
- Low condom use
- High prevalence of HIV and STI



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Source: Howard S. *BMJ*. 2018; 361
Harcourt et al. *Sexual Health*. 2005. 2; 121-128.

Prohibition (South Australia)



Epidemiology

SHORT REPORT

Was an epidemic of gonorrhoea among heterosexuals attending an Adelaide sexual health services associated with variations in sex work policing policy?

Bin Li,^{1,2} Peng Bi,¹ Russell Waddell,^{3,4,5} Eric PF Chow,^{6,7} Basil Donovan,^{8,9} Anna McNulty,⁹ Glenda Fehler,⁷ Bebe Loff,¹⁰ Hana Shakhkan,¹⁰ Christopher K Fairley^{6,7}

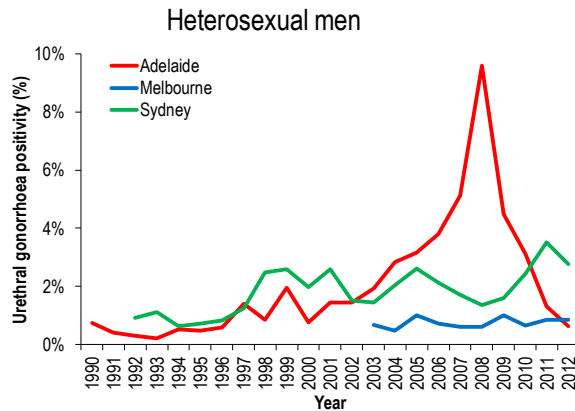
Li B, et al. *Sex Transm Infect* 2016;**92**:377–379. doi:10.1136/sextrans-2014-051918

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Prohibition (Adelaide)



- 2007-08, Adelaide expanded proceeds of crime activity
 - Resulted in 78 prostitution offences
 - Had significant impacts on STIs



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Li B, et al. STI. 2016; 92: 377-379.

Licensing and regulation (Vic, Qld)

- Excluding criminals
- Adherence to public and SH guidelines
- Positive gains to SWs and clients



	Victoria	Queensland
Number of licensed brothels	91 in Melbourne (2017 data) ¹	22 (2015/16 data) ²
Number of unlicensed brothels	Up to 70 in Melbourne (2006 data) ³	?
Street workers	Illegal	Illegal
HIV/STI screening	Mandatory (with certificate)	Mandatory (with certificate)

1. <https://www.sbs.com.au/yourlanguage/thai/en/article/2017/10/05/majority-illegal-brothels-are-massage-shops-say-police>

2. <https://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/national/queensland/queensland-legal-brothels-doing-it-tough-as-five-close-in-12-months-20161018-gs5649.html>

3. Chen M, et al. Aust N Z J Public Health. 2010; 34: 67-71.

4. Harcourt et al. Sexual Health. 2005. 2; 121-128.

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Brothels in Melbourne



- Currently brothels are limited to 6 rooms (Sex Work Act 1994).
- Sex workers have the right to refuse to see a client when they
 - think the situation is unsafe, or
 - think the client may be violent.



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Source: Scarlet Alliance <http://www.scarletalliance.org.au>
Le Boudoir <https://www.leboudoir.com.au>

Mandatory HIV/STI screening in VIC



THE AGE
NATIONAL VICTORIA

Monthly sex worker tests are ridiculous, health experts say

Health Minister David Davis has backed down from a plan for Victorian sex workers to have fewer tests for sexually transmitted infections, prompting sharp criticism from public health experts who say the plan should go ahead.

Last week, a Department of Health project officer told a health and sex work conference the government had approved a move from monthly to three-monthly tests for sex workers in the regulated industry from September.



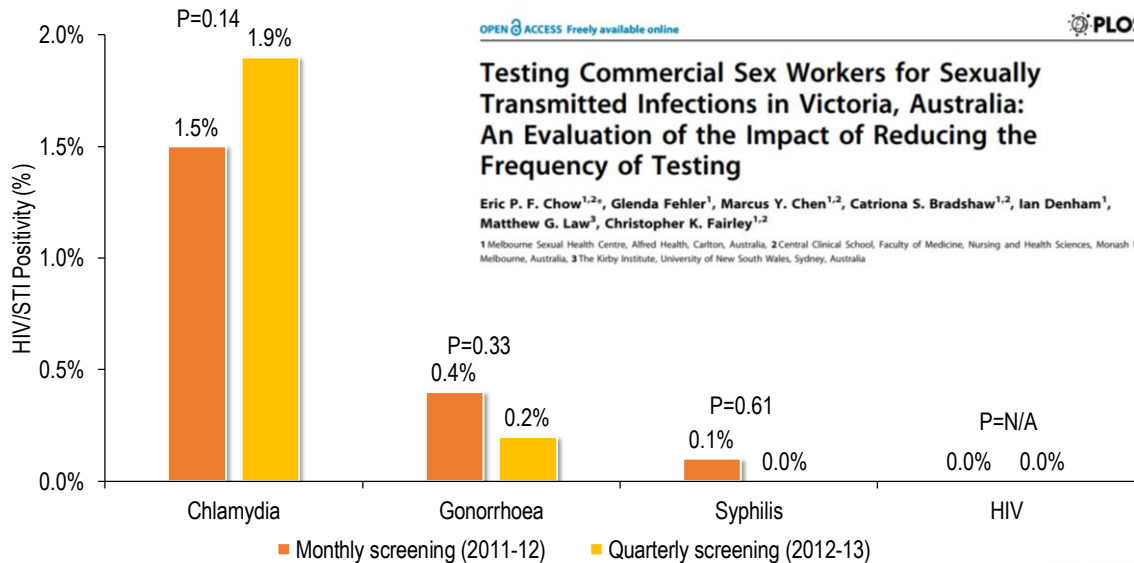
Section 20 of the Sex Work Act 1994 states, "A person **must not work** as a sex worker during any period in which he or she knows that he or she is infected with a sexually transmitted disease." Under the act, "sexually transmitted diseases" is defined as including HIV.



HIV/STI screening intervals in FSWs in Victoria

	Before October 2012	After October 2012
Chlamydia / Gonorrhoea	Every month	Every 3 months
HIV / Syphilis	Every 3 months	Every 3 months

Monthly vs quarterly screening

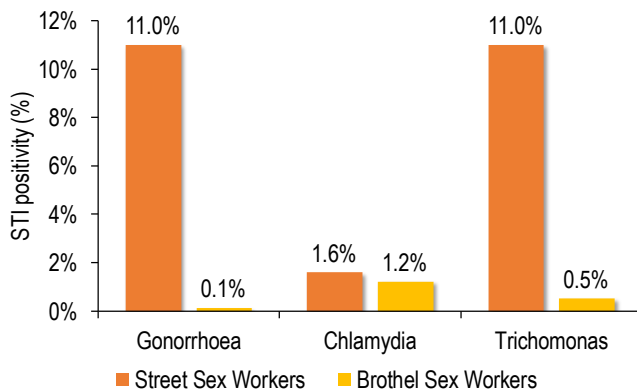


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Street vs brothel FSWs



- Under the Licensing and regulation Model
 - Street sex workers are illegal → high STI positivity
- Outreach program in Melbourne in 1998



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Decriminalisation (NSW)



- The removal of most of the criminal penalties applying to adult prostitution
- In May 2016 the NSW government announced that they continue “to support decriminalisation of sex work as the best way of protecting sex workers and maintaining a more transparent sex work industry.”
- Media statement welcoming this decision "WORLD RENOWNED, BEST PRACTICE MODEL OF SEX WORK DECRIMINALISATION TO REMAIN IN NSW"
- Decriminalisation was introduced because of corruption by police and by removing police as regulators has successfully addressed corruption.
- In other jurisdictions, and in NSW before the decriminalisation model was introduced, evidence has demonstrated police are inappropriate regulators of the sex industry.
- HIV/STI screening is not specified.

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Source: Harcourt et al. Sexual Health. 2005. 2; 121-128.

HIV/STI testing rate among FSWs



Figure 3. Proportion of FSW patients attending sexual health clinics in NSW tested for HIV or STIs, by test, and year, 2007-2015

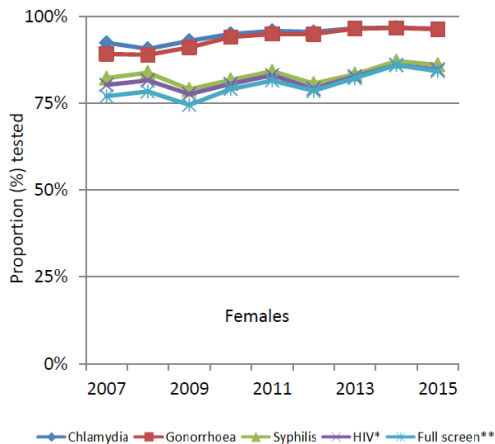
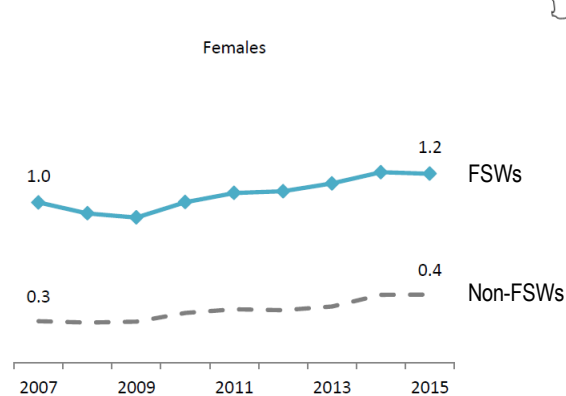


Figure 4. Mean number of 'full screens' annually among FSW patients attending sexual health clinics in NSW, by year, 2007-2015



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Callander D, et al. Sex Worker Health Surveillance: a Report to the New South Wales Ministry of Health. 2016.

HIV/STI testing rate among FSWs



CSIRO PUBLISHING
Sexual Health, 2018, 15, 93–95
<https://doi.org/10.1071/SH16243>

Letter



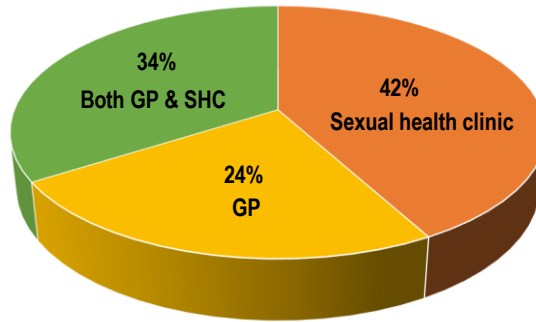
Private sex workers' engagement with sexual health services: an online survey

C. Thng^A, E. Blackledge^B, R. McIver^{A,E}, L. Watchirs Smith^D and A. McNulty^{A,C}

^ASydney Sexual Health Centre, Macquarie Street, Sydney, NSW 2000, Australia.
^BUNSW, Kensington, NSW 2052, Australia.
^CSchool of Public Health and Community Medicine, UNSW, Kensington, NSW 2052, Australia.
^DKirby Institute, UNSW, Kensington, NSW 2052, Australia.
^ECorresponding author. Email: ruthy.mciver@health.nsw.gov.au

- August – October 2015
- Anonymous online survey
- 53 sex workers

Service(s) accessed for SH check-ups

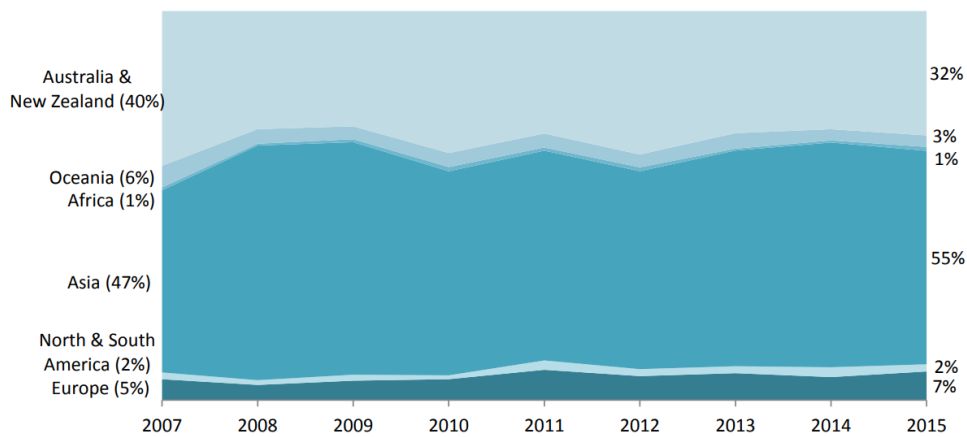


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Sex workers demographics in NSW



Figure 1. Region of birth* of female sex workers attending NSW sexual health clinics for the first time, by year, 2007-2015

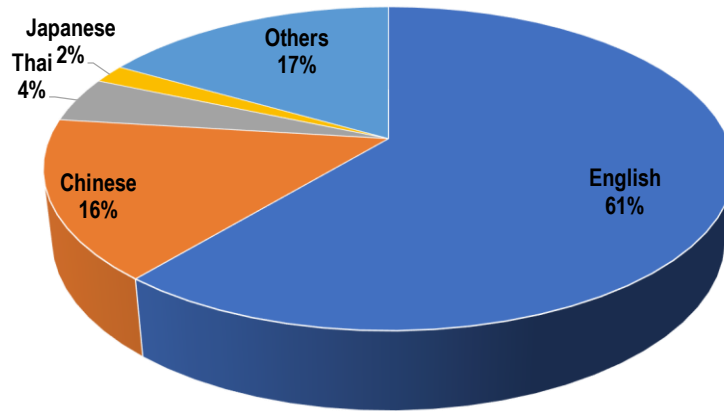


*Excludes patients for whom country of birth was not recorded

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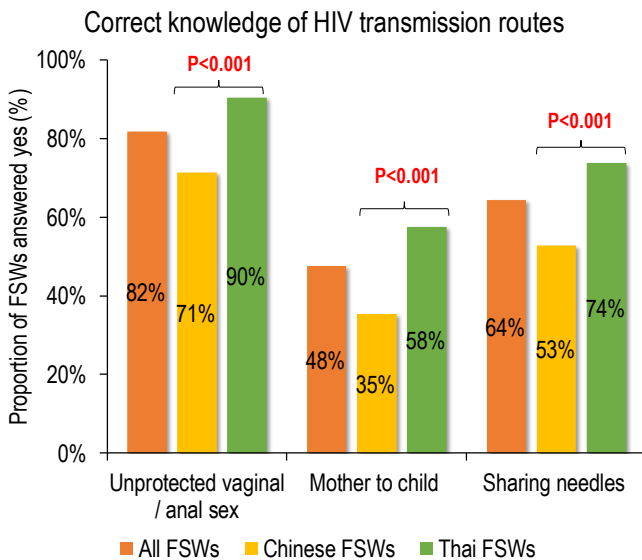
Callander D, et al. Sex Worker Health Surveillance: a Report to the New South Wales Ministry of Health. 2016.

FSWs demographics at MSHC (2018)



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HIV Knowledge among FSWs in Sydney



CSIRO PUBLISHING
Sexual Health
<https://doi.org/10.1071/SH17205>

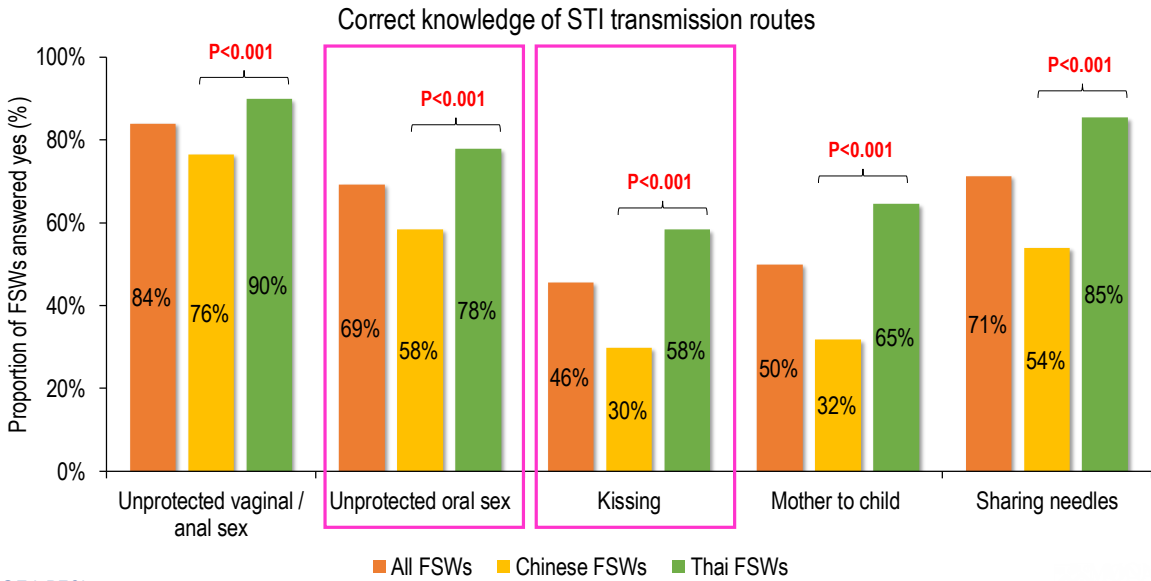
Cross-sectional survey of Chinese-speaking and Thai-speaking female sex workers in Sydney, Australia: factors associated with consistent condom use

Rosalind Foster^{A,B,D}, Lynne McCormack^A, Caroline Thng^A, Handan Wand^B and Anna McNulty^{A,C}

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Foster R, et al. Sex Health. Epub ahead 22 Aug 2018

STI Knowledge among FSWs in Sydney

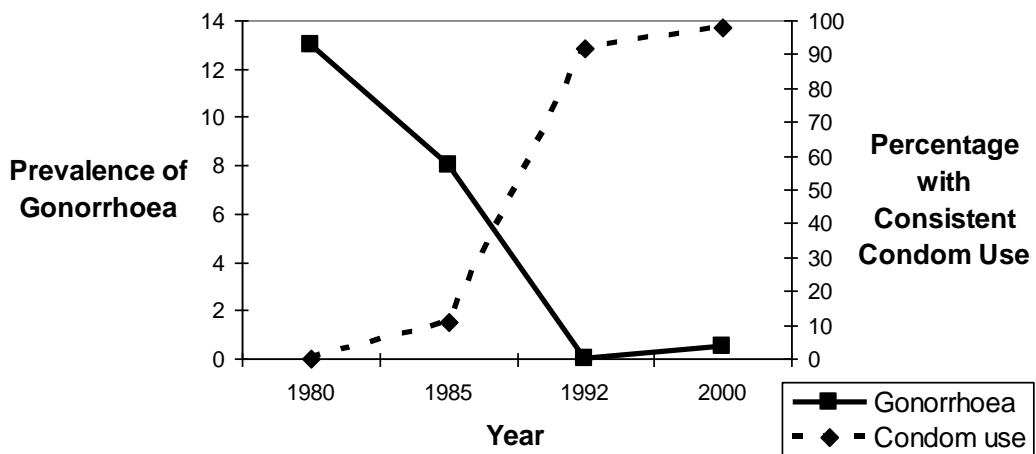


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Foster R, et al. Sex Health. Epub ahead 22 Aug 2018

Condom

Condom use at work and prevalence of gonorrhoea among resident female brothel workers in Sydney, 1980 – 2000



Sources: Donovan 1984, Jones 1984, Philpot et al 1991, O'Connor et al 1995, Sydney Sexual Health Centre data (unpublished). Gonorrhoea prevalences are based on cervical culture of women at first attendance. Consistent condom use is defined by self-report of using condoms for 100% of commercial sex acts (condom use was typically much lower for non-commercial sex).

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Slide courtesy of Kit Fairley

Condom Laws



- Sex workers must be provided with a free supply of condoms and lubricants at no charge in a brothel.



Section 18A of the sex work act also states that: (1) A person must not provide or receive sex work services unless he or she has taken all reasonable steps to ensure a condom or other appropriate barrier is used if that sex work involves vaginal, anal, or oral penetration or another activity with a similar or greater risk of acquiring or transmitting sexually transmissible infections.

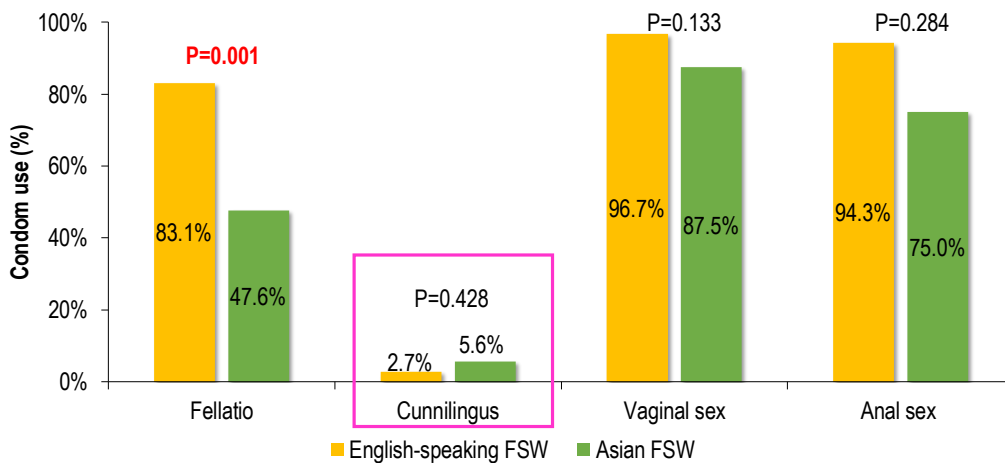


Prophylactics (ie Condoms, Dams, gloves, etc) must be used by sex workers & clients during "sexual intercourse or oral sex". The description of sexual intercourse includes all penetration "by any part of another person" or "an object".

Anything which stops the Condom or Dam from being effective (such as the client ripping or moving it) is illegal. Management and Licensees of brothels must support the use of condoms and dams & must not discourage the use.

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Condom use in FSWs in Melbourne



Frequency of tongue kissing, oral, vaginal and anal sex among female sex workers with male clients in Melbourne, Australia

Poster #70

Annalisa Zappulla^{1,2}, Christopher K Fairley^{1,2}, Basil Donovan^{3,4}, Rebecca Guy³, Catriona S Bradshaw^{1,2}, Marcus Y Chen^{1,2}, Tiffany Phillips^{1,2}, Kate Maddaford¹, Eric P.F. Chow^{1,2}

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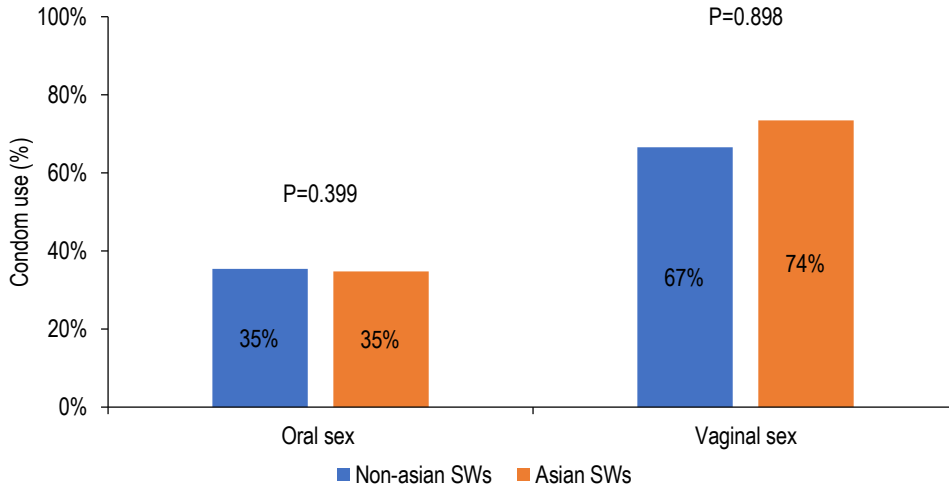
1. Melbourne Sexual Health Centre, Alfred Health, Carlton, Victoria, Australia
 2. Central Clinical School, Monash University, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia
 3. The Kirby Institute, UNSW Sydney, Kensington, NSW, Australia
 4. Sydney Sexual Health Centre, Sydney Hospital, Sydney, NSW Australia

Zappulla A, et al. Poster 70.

Condom use among FSWs in WA



- 354 sex workers in WA in 2016/17



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STI from private non-paying partners

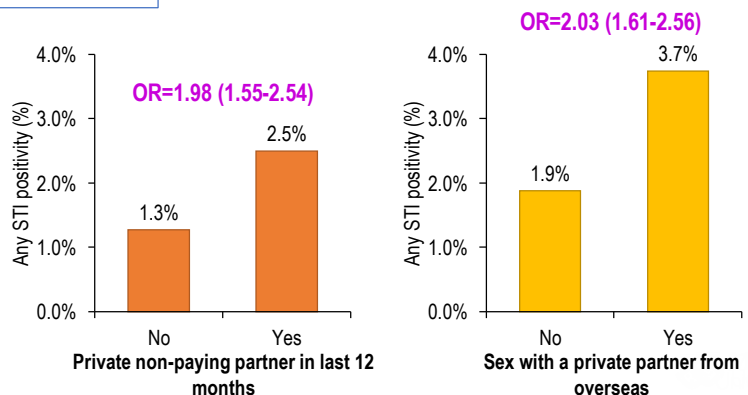


CSIRO PUBLISHING
Sexual Health, 2013, 10, 142-145
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1071/SH12114>

The prevalence of sexually transmissible infections among female sex workers from countries with low and high prevalences in Melbourne

Haiping Tang^{A,B}, Jane S. Hocking^A, Glenda Fehler^B, Henriette Williams^{A,B}, Marcus Y. Chen^{A,B} and Christopher K. Fairley^{A,B,C}

- 2006 to 2011 in Melbourne



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HIV/STI among male clients



International Journal of STD & AIDS 2001; 12: 665-669

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

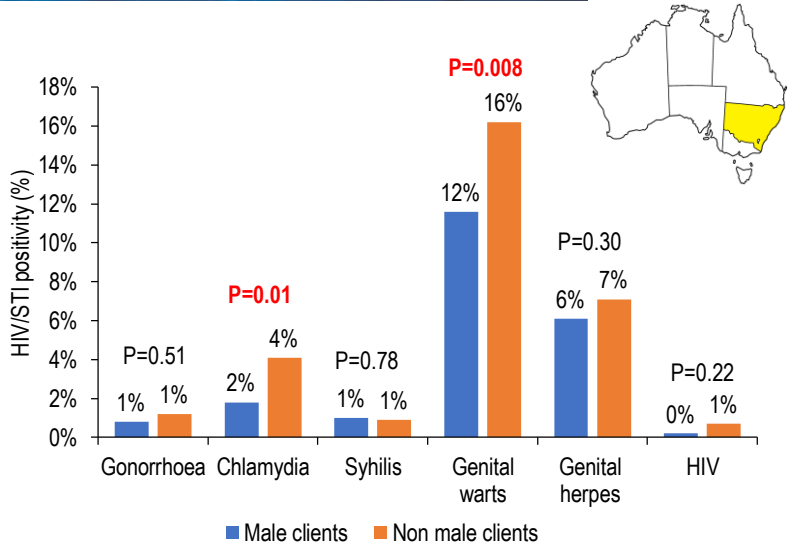
Male clients of female commercial sex workers: HIV, STDs and risk behaviour

E Coughlan MB ChB FACSH¹, A Mindel MD FRCP² and C S Estcourt MD MRCP²

¹Sydney Sexual Health Centre and ²Academic Unit of Sexual Health Medicine, Sydney Hospital, Sydney, Australia

Summary: Social stigma and taboo limit current understanding of sexual behaviours and epidemiology of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) in clients of commercial sex workers/prostitutes. We designed a study to determine risk behaviours and prevalence of STIs in a group of sexual health clinic attending male clients of female commercial sex workers (FCSWs) in Sydney, and to compare these characteristics with men who denied any commercial sexual contact. Eight hundred and ninety cases and 2670 controls were included. Clients of FCSWs were older, more likely to be married and of non-English speaking background than controls. Clients had more sexual partners but reported more condom usage than controls. Prevalence of STIs at presentation was lower in clients than controls but clients were more likely to report STIs in the past than controls. HIV prevalence was low in both groups.

Keywords: Female commercial sex worker (prostitute), male client, sexually transmitted diseases, risk behaviours

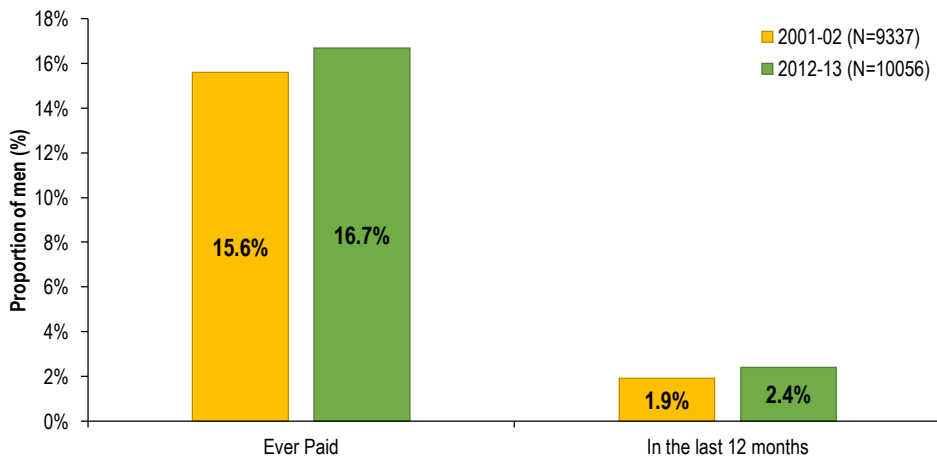


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Men have paid for sex



- Australia national survey in 2001-02, 2012-13



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1. Rissel C, et al. Aust N Z J Public Health. 2003;27:191-7.
 2. Richters J, et al. Sex Health. 2014; 11: 461-471.

Safety



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Queensland sex workers say current laws put their lives at risk

ABC Queensland, by Inga Simpson
Posted 13 Apr 2016, 11:56am

PHOTO: Private sex workers say existing or current laws put their safety at risk. (ABC News)

THE AUSTRALIAN AGE

Five years on, still no answers in the murder of St Kilda sex worker Tracy Connelly

By Tracy Mills
@TracyMills • 10:56 AM • 4/16/16

Tracy Connelly with her partner Terry Hales.

It was a banal coincidence that sex worker Tracy Connelly's usual "partner" - her partner Anthony Hales - wasn't there the night she was murdered.

When she worked, St Kilda's red light district normally meant about 100 metres away, noting the registration numbers, makes and models of the cars her clients would arrive in, and the time she left with them.

news.com.au

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Why sex workers are disappearing from our streets

IT'S known as the oldest profession in the world but as technology evolves sex workers are disappearing from city streets.

Hagen Paul @hagenpaul

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Uber for Sex – Rendevu



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Sex workers app Rendevu wants to make it easier, safer to connect escorts with clients

AM By Angela Lavolpierre
Updated 23 Jan 2017, 12:50pm

A new app which works in a similar way to Uber aims to make it easier and safer for sex workers to meet their clients.

RELATED STORY: Tinder in Tasmania. The success stories and pitfalls

RELATED STORY: Female-only ride-sharing service Shebah to launch in Queensland

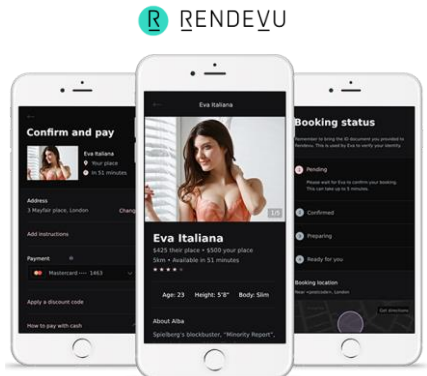
While sex work is legal in some Australian states, there are a number of risks for both parties. Rendevu hopes to solve that problem.

Developer Reuben Coppa said sex workers could list themselves on the application list, show when they were working, what type of appointments they were taking and their price points.

"[And] for clients they can load the application, they can see which sex workers are working and then how many minutes it would be to an appointment with them," he said.

Key points:

- Sex work is legal in some Australian states, but number of risks remain
- Workers can list availability, price and type of appointment on app
- Clients can see who is working, how long they have to wait and reviews from other users



Secure, Safe and Sure.

The most secure and safe place to book your escort.

BOOK AN ESCORT

Looking for new clients? Become an Escort today.

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Rendevu



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MONASH
University

FOR CLIENTS

Finding an escort?



Safe and private

Credit card required to book.
Appointments privately tracked in real time.



Simple Process

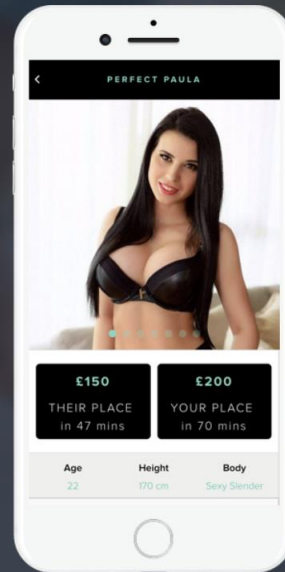
Book available escorts in 10 clicks.
Guaranteed confirmation within 5 minutes.



Secure and discreet

Client data is removed after appointment.
Cash can be paid at time of appointment instead of card charge.

[BOOK AN ESCORT](#)



Rendevu



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FOR ESCORTS

Looking for clients?



Safe and private

Appointments privately tracked in real time. Credit card required to book.



No timewasters

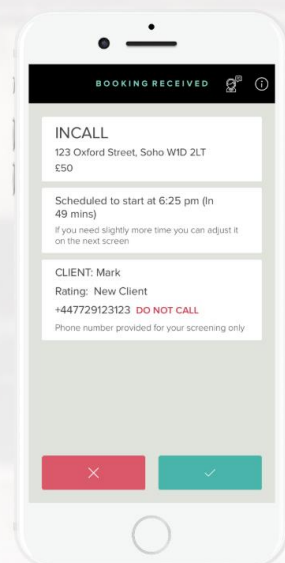
Payment is guaranteed.
Clients are verified.



Realtime

Install the Rendevu app on your phone to update your real time availability.
Clients will see exactly when they can book and can only then contact you.

[BECOME AN ESCORT](#)



Conclusions



- 3 different sex work models in Australia
- HIV/STI positivity among FSWs are low, compared to the general population non-FSWs
- HIV/STI positivity among male clients are low
- FSWs mainly acquired STI from private partners
- Differences in sexual behaviours and HIV/STI knowledge between Asian and non-Asian FSWs
 - Reasons are not clear
- Peer-education and harm reduction program in their languages
 - New strategies e.g. apps



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Acknowledgment



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The Kirby Institute



Kit Fairley



Annalisa Zappulla



Basil Donovan

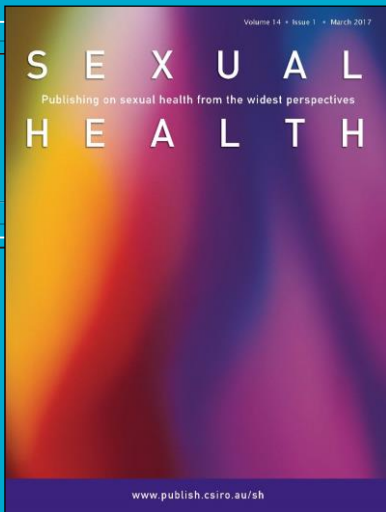


Rebecca Guy



Denton Callander

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Call for Papers

Gonorrhoea: tackling the global epidemic in the era of rising antimicrobial resistance

Guest Editors: Eric Chow (Australia), Jason Ong (UK), Deborah Williamson (Australia), Philippe Mayaud (UK), Gwenda Hughes (UK), Teodora Wi (Switzerland)

A CSIRO PUBLISHING JOURNAL
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Submission deadline: 1 December 2018

Contact Jason Ong: jong@mshc.org.au

