

# PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY WHO PAID FOR SEX WORKER SERVICES, IN AUSTRALIA – FINDINGS FROM AN EXPLORATORY RESEARCH STUDY.

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## Background:

This paper shares findings from the exploratory study: *Exploring the experiences of people with disability who access sex workers services, in Australia* (PASA – Research). Disrupting false historical narratives of people with disability being asexual, this research amplifies the voices of the participants to explore the diverse range of sexual services they chose to pay for. The scope of this study went beyond usual heteronormative frameworks to include contributions from people of all genders and sexualities.

## Methods:

Eligible participants were recruited via a snowball sampling approach with all information available from the study's website: [www.pasa-research.com.au](http://www.pasa-research.com.au). An online survey and a series of semi-structured, in-depth interviews were conducted. To increase accessibility, an EasyRead version of the participant information sheet was produced, with all survey questions also provided in Plain English.

## Results:

108 viable anonymous online surveys were collected, and 27 semi-structured interviews were conducted. People with a wide range of disabilities, gender identities and sexualities participated throughout Australia. Sexual services were provided by female, male, non-binary and transgender sex workers in a broad range of geographical and physical locations. The motivational factors for people to seek out sex worker services were explored along with how these activities contributed to a person's sense of self and wellbeing. Support mechanisms, barriers to access, and funding/ financial difficulties were also examined.

## Conclusion:

It is anticipated that these findings may contribute to future policy development, legislative reform, educational programs and training within the disability, aged care, rehabilitation, and sex worker sectors.

## Disclosure of Interest Statement:

None

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