

28 May 2022

To the Department of Communities Tasmania,

**Re: The development of Tasmania's third Family and Sexual Violence Action Plan to end family and sexual violence in Tasmania**

This letter is written from my position as a Tasmanian sex worker with many years experience in policy development and service delivery addressing violence against women, non-binary and gender diverse people from all backgrounds and experiences.

In consideration of intersectionality and with the emerging focus in Tasmania on multiple presentations of violence across communities, it is timely that the Tasmanian response to family and sexual violence directly addresses Tasmanian sex workers' experience of violence.

Violence against women and violence against sex workers occur within overlapping cultural conditions and are therefore inextricably linked. The Scarlet Alliance's submission to the *National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children* is a comprehensive analysis of the experience of sex workers in Australia's policy landscape and is a critical document for the development of the Tasmanian Plan. Please find attached.

I further ask that you consider the following points in the formation of the next Family and Sexual Violence Action Plan;

- That the elimination of violence against women and children must recognise sex workers as members of the community, entitled to the same human rights provisions, life opportunities and freedoms as the general community.
- That due to legislative and cultural environments sex workers have a unique experience of violence that can be perpetrated by intimate partners, members of the public and service providers.
- That misunderstandings and widely held myths about sex workers confuse service responders and hamper their ability to recognise sex workers as victims when they have been subjected to abuse and violence.
- That police powers in Tasmania which include proactive policing approaches can hinder sex worker's access to police and justice interventions.
- That prevention and services responses to family and sexual violence must include sex workers and be accessible by sex workers. Prevention and intervention responses that exclude, stigmatise or silence sex workers will fail to in their mission to address violence against women.

For opportunities to include sex workers in the formation of the Tasmanian plan please contact Scarlet Alliance.

Yours sincerely

Rebecca