



## Workshop 27 Sex @ work: the ordinary, extraordinary lives of sex workers

Thursday 16 October, 10.00 am – 4.00 pm

Dockside @ Cockle Bay

### Introduction

Typically, discussions of sex work in the health sector tend to focus on health issues such as sexually transmissible infections (STIs) and blood-borne viruses. This workshop looks at broader issues such as local government planning, health service delivery and the rights and safety of workers.

### Aims

- ▶ To gain insight into the factors that impact on the lived experiences of sex workers.
- ▶ To present a range of research perspectives that illustrate the complexities and challenges of work in this area.
- ▶ To showcase examples of projects developed in partnership with sex-worker organisations.
- ▶ To challenge participants to critically examine stereotypes and stigma associated with sex work and to encourage them to reflect on how new insights will inform their work.

### Delegate profile: who should attend

This workshop has been designed for those who work in areas in which the issue of sex work is relevant. Employees of research centres, area health services and non-government agencies should apply. Workers in sexual health clinics, mental health and alcohol and other drugs (AOD) services, health promotion and education will find this workshop particularly useful. In addition, staff working with people in prison and marginalised groups, such as women in refuges, are encouraged to register. The workshop will also be relevant to those working in community legal centres and local government planning.

### Cost

There is a registration fee of \$55 (including GST) per participant per workshop.

Note: You may be eligible for funding to attend from the NSW Health Workforce Development Program (WDP). Funding covers registration fees and, where appropriate, travel and accommodation costs. Check the guidelines for applying for a WDP grant in the *WDP Training Directory* or at [www.wdp.nsw.gov.au](http://www.wdp.nsw.gov.au)

### Registration

To register, please email Ann Whitelaw at [a.whitelaw@unsw.edu.au](mailto:a.whitelaw@unsw.edu.au). Please include in the email your name, job title, the name of your organisation, its postal address and your contact phone numbers.

Please note: There are strictly limited numbers and delegates will be selected on a first-come-first-served basis, given that they meet the requirements of the delegate profile above.

**Registrations are now open and close on Tuesday 7 October 2008.**

### Guest speakers (confirmed)

**Professor Basil Donovan** is a practising sexual health physician at the Sydney Sexual Health Centre, Sydney Hospital, and Professor of Sexual Health at the National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research (NCHECR), UNSW. His research interests include clinical and public health aspects of HIV/AIDS and other STIs; strategies for prevention; and populations of importance to public health such as homosexually active men, sex workers, Aboriginal people, prisoners and travellers.

**Janelle Fawkes** is CEO of Scarlet Alliance, the Australian Sex Workers Association, which is the national peak sex-worker organisation in Australia. Janelle has contributed to a range of such organisations in both paid and voluntary board positions; she has been Peer Educator, Peer Services Coordinator, Manager, Vice-President and President (since 1991).

**Jo Holden** is Manager of the Sex Workers Outreach Project (SWOP) and has extensive knowledge of the sex industry in NSW. She is a registered nurse, has been a senior manager in the public health sector and has worked as a research nurse at NCHECR. Her interests include the impact of drug use, particularly injecting drug use, on the risk behaviours and mental health of sex workers.

**Maria McMahon** is currently Policy Advisor on Sex Work at ACON. She has worked with sex-worker organisations to provide services to sex workers for over 14 years. During this time, she has sought to ensure that sex workers have access to appropriate, high-quality health services, workplace health and safety standards, and legal, civil and human rights. Maria is also an office bearer for Scarlet Alliance, the Australian Sex Workers Association.

**Kelly Paul** has extensive experience and knowledge of the sex industry both domestically and internationally and has worked within a variety of legislative frameworks. She has had roles in management and in escort and parlour-based businesses. Kelly is also an experienced health educator in the sexual health sector and is currently an Outreach Officer at SWOP.

**Dr Jason Prior** has a background in urban studies, planning, sociology, urban design and architecture. His doctoral research explored the interplay of built form, governance, planning and sexuality in Sydney in the 20th century. He is a Senior Researcher at the Institute for Sustainable Futures and a Research Fellow at the Faculty of Design, Architecture and Building, both at the University of Technology, Sydney (UTS).

**Rachel Sandford** has worked extensively with sex workers, injecting drug users and other marginalised communities in both domestic and international settings. She is currently the Outreach Team Leader at SWOP, and was previously the Needle and Syringe Program Team Leader for Blacktown and Mt Druitt. Rachel has also worked in direct service delivery and management within a primary health care service. She is an experienced staff trainer in health, youth, AOD and community services.

### Facilitator

**Dr Rob Wilkins**, Senior Project Manager, WDP.

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