

## Sex Workers, Consent and Sexual Assault

**SWOP Again Draws Attention to;**

**Recent Cases in the Australian Capital Territory where negation of sex worker consent has led to custodial sentences where clients ignored that negated consent, and**

**To SWOP's Briefing Paper "Obtaining Sex Under False Pretences 2019"**

Sex workers have individual boundaries on the services that we provide. When our sexual boundaries are disregarded, this is sexual assault, just as it is for any member of the public, regardless of their occupation.

A person's occupation does not negate their right to refuse or withdraw consent. A sex work booking is a negotiated service where all parties agree to the sexual services that are being provided. Consent is specific to the sexual services that have been agreed to and sold. If this agreement is breached, this is non-consensual and is sexual assault.

There are community wide misconceptions around sex work and sexual assault. Sexual assault is not an expected part of a sex work booking and it is unacceptable.

There can be struggles for sex workers in obtaining justice for crimes committed against us, particularly sexual violence and assault.

This must change.

There is a need for increased awareness within the community and within the justice system to enable sex workers to be able to come forward and access justice in the event of a crime being committed against us.

**SWOP reminds any sex worker who has experienced sexual assault, in any situation, that SWOP can provide peer support and counselling via [swopconnect@swop.org.au](mailto:swopconnect@swop.org.au)  
Phone: (02) 9206 2166; Freecall: 1800 622 902 (from regional and rural NSW)  
Hours: Mon, Tues, Thurs & Fri: 10am - 6pm, Wed: 2pm - 6pm  
And referral to free legal advice.**

**Media Contact;**

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