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Secretary to the Committee
C/- Parliament House
By email: rsw@parliament.sa.gov.au

Dear Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission regarding the **Statutes Amendment (Repeal of Sex Work Offences) Bill 2020**. This submission is being made on behalf of the South Australian Rainbow Advocacy Alliance (SARAA).

SARAA is a community led organisation that advocates for the rights and wellbeing of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer (LGBTIQ+) South Australians. We know there are many sex workers who identify as part of the LGBTIQ+ community in SA, and we fully support their right to live and work in a legal framework that protects their rights and treats them as equals.

Sex work law reform is long overdue in South Australia and SARAA urges the committee to consider the important health and wellbeing benefits that decriminalising sex work will have for sex workers and the broader South Australian community. There is a large body of Australian and international evidence that supports the decriminalisation of sex work on the basis of public health benefit alone. The Lancet series on HIV and sex work¹ found that the 'decriminalisation of sex work would have the greatest effect on the course of HIV epidemics across all settings, averting 33–46% of HIV infections in the next decade'.

South Australia, once famous for its progressive law reform, now lags behind the rest of the country in terms of sex work legislation. SARAA fully supports all efforts to decriminalise sex work. We know that criminalising sex work does not stop sex work from occurring, and that it creates an environment that puts sex workers and their clients at risk in a multitude of ways. Decriminalising sex work will lead to more safety in working conditions, provide more security for sex workers who have experienced violence to report this to police without fear of arrest and provide reassurance for sex workers they will be able access health and other services without discrimination.

¹ <https://www.thelancet.com/series/hiv-and-sex-workers>

Thank you once again for the opportunity to provide this submission.

Kind regards,

Matthew Morris & Varo L.E.
Co-Chairs, South Australian Rainbow Advocacy Alliance

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