

Dealing with Immigration Officials

Officers from the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs may visit prostitution service providers they believe to be employing workers who don't have legal working visas. To enter a workplace immigration staff must have their proper ID and a valid search warrant.

When immigration staff visit the workplace, they:

- must tell the person in charge (owner or approved manager) the purpose of the visit
- can search the entire premises, handbags and personal effects
- can only use reasonable force if deemed necessary and can only handcuff a worker if they try to escape
- cannot ask workers to remove clothing or dress or do a body search
- can ask for ID such as a passport, student or Medicare cards from everyone on the premises.

You have the right to:

- not answer questions until an interpreter is provided
- have an interpreter
- ask for legal advice from a lawyer or an embassy official.

Immigration staff acting in an improper or corrupt manner can be reported to the Commonwealth Ombudsman (1300 362 072).

This information is of a general type and should not be taken as a substitute for legal advice.

Resourcing Health & EDucation in the Sex Industry
10 Inkerman Street, St Kilda VIC 3182
Phone 1800 458 752
Fax (03) 9525 4492
Visit www.sexworker.org.au

