



# **PATHWAYS PROGRAM**

**USEFUL INFORMATION**

## CONTENTS

Useful Information	pg 2	Drug & Alcohol	pg 5
Pathways Program	pg 2	Employment	pg 5
Arrest Referral Program	pg 2	Study	pg 5
Health Education & Support Workers	pg 3	Housing	pg 6
Young Women's Support Worker	pg 3	Legal Support	pg 6/7
Centrelink	pg 3	Lifestyle Changes	pg 7
Community Health Centres	pg 3	Mental Health	pg 7/8
Counselling & General Support	pg 3/4	Superannuation & Tax	pg 8
Financial Counselling & Budgeting	pg 4		

## Useful Information

Resourcing health & Education is a service for the sex industry in Victoria. The service operates from 10 Inkerman Street, St Kilda and provides site based and outreach services in collaboration with relevant programs and agencies. As a program of Inner South Community Health, RhED provides practical health information and supports. RhED offers a variety of different programs for the sex industry including;

## Pathways to Exit (Often referred to as Pathways Program)

The Pathways Program recognises that a career in the sex industry, like any other career, can have an expiry date for some people and that some workers are interested in expanding their opportunities outside of the sex industry. The Program does not put pressure on workers to leave the industry. It is aimed at those workers who want to explore and expand their options external to the industry.

The Pathways Program is a case management service for sex workers who want to explore their education and employment options outside the sex industry. Case Managers can provide support with education, employment, health and housing.

You can contact the Pathways Program on **1800 458 752**.

## Arrest Referral Program

The Arrest Referral Program offers legal information and support for people charged with sex work or non-violent, drug related offences in the City of Port Phillip. This includes assistance with making contact with the police, assistance with applying for Victims of Crime Compensation and addressing any outstanding fines. Workers can provide support, legal information, and referral and in some cases attend court with you.

You can contact the Arrest Referral Program on **1800 458 752**.



## Health Education & Support Workers

Health Education and Support Workers provide information and referral in relation to working in the Victorian sex industry. Workers are able to provide support for multicultural and transgender workers. Workers can also assist with reporting Ugly Mugs.

You can contact the Health Education and Support Workers on **1800 458 752**.

## Young Women's Support Worker

The Young Women's Support Worker provides support to young women (under 25 years) who are homeless or at risk of homelessness with links to the City of Port Phillip.

You can contact the Young Women's support Worker on **1800 458 752**.

## CENTRELINK

Centrelink is a program within the Department of Human Services which delivers a range of payments and services for a range of people including, the unemployed, families, carers, parents, people with disabilities, Indigenous Australians, and people from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds. It also provides services at times of major change. For more information you can search:

[www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/information/centrelink-website](http://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/information/centrelink-website)

Phone: **132 468**

## COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRES

Community health centres offer a variety of low cost health care services throughout Victoria.

Services that can be accessed through community health centres include:

- GP
- Dietetics
- Smoking cessation
- Dental
- Sexual health
- Alcohol and drug counselling
- Physiotherapy
- Mental health
- Financial counselling
- Podiatry
- Gamblers help

You can locate your local community health centre in the telephone directory under 'Community Health Services' or by searching the directory:

[www.health.vic.gov.au/pch/commhealth/directory.htm](http://www.health.vic.gov.au/pch/commhealth/directory.htm)

## COUNSELLING & GENERAL SUPPORT

Subsidised counselling services are available within Australia through the government Better Access to Mental Health Care Initiative.

This initiative allows you to claim a Medicare rebate on psychology and social work counselling services. In order to access this initiative, you require a referral from your GP.



You can also contact RhED for a list of sex worker friendly counsellors on **1800 458 752**.

or

Psychology and/or Social Work practitioners can be located at:

### **Australian Psychological Society (APS)**

[www.psychology.org.au](http://www.psychology.org.au)

Phone: **(03) 8662 3300**

Toll free: **1800 333 497**

### **WIRE**

WIRE Women's Information provides Victorian women with free and confidential support, information and referrals on any issues statewide.

[www.wire.org.au](http://www.wire.org.au)

Phone: **1300 134 130**

### **Australian Association of Social Workers (AASW)**

[www.aasw.asn.au](http://www.aasw.asn.au)

Phone: **(03) 9320 1005**

### **Gambling Helpline**

Phone: **1800 858 858** (24 hour helpline)

[www.gamblinghelponline.org.au](http://www.gamblinghelponline.org.au)

## **FINANCIAL COUNSELLING & BUDGETING**

Reducing or ceasing your hours in the sex industry may mean changes to your financial situation.

It may be useful to consider developing a budget or accessing a financial counsellor and/or accountant to assist you with managing changes to your financial situation.

In Victoria, free financial counselling services are provided by a variety of community organisations.

To locate your nearest financial counselling service, you can search for services on the Money Smart website or contact Money Help.

### **Money Help**

Money Help offers free financial counselling over the telephone, and a free budget planning tool on the website.

Phone: **1800 007 007**

[www.moneyhelp.org.au](http://www.moneyhelp.org.au)

### **Money Smart**

Money Smart is the government website that offers free financial counselling and budgeting information.

[www.moneysmart.gov.au](http://www.moneysmart.gov.au)

### **10 Thousand Girl**

Assistance for women with financial planning.

Make a plan for your life. Join the 10thousandgirl campaign and set clear 12 month, 3-5 year and long term personal goals whilst learning about superannuation, insurance, investing in shares and property and managing debt so you can ensure you're setting your personal finances up to support your long term goals.

[www.10thousandgirl.com](http://www.10thousandgirl.com)

You can also obtain a list of sex worker friendly accountants by contacting RhED on **1800 458 752**.

You may also be eligible to access financial counselling through your local community health service. (See 'Community Health Centre' section of this publication)



## DRUG & ALCOHOL SUPPORT

If you, or a family member have concerns about alcohol or drug use, you can access free support within Victoria. If you have a medical emergency please call **000**.

For immediate support and assistance with alcohol and drug issues you can contact:

### Directline

Directline is a statewide, 24 hour confidential alcohol and other drug counselling, information and referral service.

[www.health.vic.gov.au/aod/directline](http://www.health.vic.gov.au/aod/directline)

Phone: **1800 888 236**

You can also access counselling, support, information and referral through your local community health centre (See 'Community Health Centre' section of this publication)

If you are supporting a family member with drug/ alcohol issues you can contact:

### Family Drug Help

This service offers support to family members who have a family member with substance use issues.

Phone: **1300 660 068**

[www.familydrughelp.org.au](http://www.familydrughelp.org.au)

### YSAS

YSAS (Youth Support and Advocacy Service) is a state-wide community service providing support for young people (12-21 years) experiencing substance use issues.

Phone: **1800 014 446** (24 hour helpline)



## EMPLOYMENT

You may be able to access support in gaining employment through the government or via community agencies in Victoria.

### Job Services Australia

Job Services Australia (JSA) is the Australian Government employment services system that supports job seekers and employers. For more information on JSA providers and their areas of specialty contact:

[www.jobsearch.gov.au](http://www.jobsearch.gov.au)

You can also search and apply for jobs directly on a variety of websites:

[www.careermums.com.au](http://www.careermums.com.au)

[www.jobseeker.org.au](http://www.jobseeker.org.au)

[www.jobsearch.gov.au](http://www.jobsearch.gov.au)

[www.ethicaljobs.com.au](http://www.ethicaljobs.com.au)

[www.mycareer.com.au](http://www.mycareer.com.au)

[www.seek.com.au](http://www.seek.com.au)

## STUDY

You may want to look into short courses or tertiary study at TAFE or a university.

If you would like more information on courses available to you:

[www.myskills.gov.au](http://www.myskills.gov.au)

[www.open.edu.au](http://www.open.edu.au)

[www.vtac.edu.au](http://www.vtac.edu.au)

If you choose to study you may have the option of accessing a government subsidy or a HELP debt. For more information on this contact:

[www.studyassist.gov.au](http://www.studyassist.gov.au)



## HOUSING

You may be able to access public housing in Victoria through the Office of Housing:

### Department of Human Services – Office of Housing

Phone: **1300 650 172** [local call fee within Victoria, except mobile phones] to be referred to your local housing office.

[www.dhs.vic.gov.au/for-individuals/housing-and-accommodation](http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/for-individuals/housing-and-accommodation)

People requiring emergency housing assistance can call **1800 825 955** and they will be directed to the access point service that is closest to them.

People with tenancy issues can contact The Tenants Union of Victoria for information, support & advocacy.

Phone: **03 9416 2577**

[www.tuv.org.au](http://www.tuv.org.au)

You may also be able to also access Community Housing within Victoria.

Community housing is an innovative housing option for any family or individual on a low to moderate income. For those people who cannot afford a home and who pay more than 30% of their income in a private rental property, community housing is managed by not-for-profit housing organisations who act as landlords.

For more information on community housing contact:

### Community Housing Federation of Victoria

Phone: **03 9654 6077**

[www.chfv.org.au](http://www.chfv.org.au)

For more information on your private rental options contact:

[www.domain.com.au](http://www.domain.com.au)

[www.realestate.com](http://www.realestate.com)



If you require financial assistance to pay a rental bond, you can contact your local housing support office to discuss your eligibility.

Phone: **1800 825 955**

## LEGAL SUPPORT

The Arrest Referral Program at RhED offers legal information and support for people charged with sex worker or non-violent, drug related offences in the City of Port Phillip. This includes providing linkages to lawyers, advice on outstanding fines, assistance contacting the police, criminal matters and victims of crime assistance tribunal applications.

In Victoria you can access free legal advice through community legal centres.

### Victoria Legal Aid

If you can't afford a lawyer you can contact Victoria Legal Aid to apply for a grant to assist you with your case. Victoria Legal Aid has 15 offices in metropolitan and regional Victoria. They also provide services in many Victorian regional courts.

Phone: **03 9269 0234**

Country callers only: **1800 677 402**

[www.legalaid.vic.gov.au](http://www.legalaid.vic.gov.au)

### Law Institute of Victoria

Finding a lawyer can be a daunting task, the Law Institute of Victoria can refer you to its many specialist member solicitors around Victoria.

Phone: **9607 9550**

[www.liv.asn.au/Referral](http://www.liv.asn.au/Referral)



## Women's Legal Service

Free and confidential legal advice to women.  
(Interpreter services are available)

Phone: **03 9642 0877** or **1800 133 302** (for country callers)

[www.womenslegal.org.au](http://www.womenslegal.org.au)

## Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service Co-Operative Limited

Phone: **1800 064 865** (Free call)

[www.vals.org.au](http://www.vals.org.au)

For more information on your rights and the law you can access the Law Handbook Online:

[www.lawhandbook.org.au](http://www.lawhandbook.org.au)

## Attendance at Court

If you are listed to attend court it is important that you attend. If you do not attend court a warrant for your arrest may be issued. There are 12 metropolitan courts and a number of country courts.

To find contact details for your nearest court follow the link below.

[www.magistratescourt.vic.gov.au](http://www.magistratescourt.vic.gov.au)

Or contact

**Melbourne Magistrates Court**

**233 William Street**

**Melbourne**

**VIC 3000**

**(03) 9628 7777** (Switchboard)

## Federation of Community Legal Centres Victoria

Contact them to find out where your local community legal service is located.

[www.communitylaw.org.au](http://www.communitylaw.org.au)

## LIFESTYLE CHANGES

Reducing or ceasing your hours in the sex industry may mean changes in a variety of different areas of your life including:

- Finances
- Employment and/or study
- Day to day routine
- Social connections

If you would like more information or support in regard to these changes, please contact the Pathways to Exit Program at RhED on **1800 458 752**.

Pathways Program is a case management service provided by RhED which seeks to support sex workers to explore their education and employment options outside the sex industry.

## MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

You can access support for your mental health from a variety of service providers in Victoria including: public hospitals, community health services or private counselling providers (See 'General Support and Counselling' section of this publication)



For general support and information you can contact your local community health centre (See 'Community Health Centre' section of this publication) or the following agencies:

For urgent support you can contact the Crisis and Assessment Team (CAT) in your region through your local hospital emergency department or via the following link:

[www.health.vic.gov.au/mentalhealth/services/adult/index.htm](http://www.health.vic.gov.au/mentalhealth/services/adult/index.htm)

### Headspace

See website for your local centre.

[www.headspace.org.au](http://www.headspace.org.au)

### Lifeline

Provides 24/7 crisis support and suicide prevention services.

Phone: **13 11 14**

[www.lifeline.org.au](http://www.lifeline.org.au)

### Mind Australia

Phone: **1300 286 463**

[www.mindaustralia.org.au](http://www.mindaustralia.org.au)



## SUPERANNUATION & TAX

Superannuation refers to financial contributions from your salary towards retirement.

Depending upon your role in the sex industry, you may be considered to be 'self-employed' and required to make your own superannuation contributions.

For more information on superannuation and your options for a superannuation fund:

### Money Smart

[www.moneysmart.gov.au](http://www.moneysmart.gov.au)

For more information about your superannuation options, you may wish to contact an accountant.

You can obtain a list of sex worker friendly accountants by contacting RhED on **1800 458 752**.

If you are self-employed you are required to have an Australian Business Number (ABN) and submit a tax return on a regular basis.

For more information on taxation:

### Australian Taxation Office

[www.ato.gov.au](http://www.ato.gov.au)

For more information about your tax, you may wish to contact an accountant.

You can obtain a list of sex worker friendly accountants by contacting RhED on **1800 458 752**.

