

RhED E-newsletter

**Resourcing health and education in the Victorian Sex Industry*

—promoting advocacy and education about the Victorian sex industry



Vol 1/2013

Welcome to the inaugural RhED Voice.

This E-newsletter is for us to share our work with our stakeholders. It will be sent quarterly. Please feel free to pass it on and give us feedback.

Happy 2013!



STI testing 3 monthly

On 6 October, 2012, STI testing (swabs) for sex workers moved from monthly to three monthly.

Sex workers practice safe sex and the research continues to show that sex workers have lower rates of STIs than people in the general community. This is a great outcome after many years of lobbying and advocating to the government and health bodies for change.

Project work

CALD PROJECT: In 2012, RhED researched the key health and wellbeing needs of migrant and multicultural sex workers. This report will be available in the coming months.



Submissions

Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade (Department of House of Representatives) highlighting the issues experienced by CALD sex workers (2012) <http://bit.ly/QI41R1>

Submission to Crimes Legislation Amendment (Slavery, Slavery-like Conditions and People Trafficking) Bill 2012 (Federal) highlighting the needs and rights of sex workers from countries other than Australia (2012) <http://bit.ly/VYMcUA>

International Day to End Violence Against Sex Workers (Red Umbrella Day)

RhED acknowledged the International Day to End Violence Against Sex Workers on 17 December 2012 with a march through the streets of St Kilda.



RhED in the media

Radio interviews

Triple R – Laura Rosewarne’s program, “The Fairer Sex”
<http://ondemand.rrr.org.au/player/32/201301091900>

UPCOMING

EVENT



Pride March

RhED is marching in Pride March on Sunday 3 February 2013. If you would like to join and support RhED please email sexworker@sexworker.org.au or phone 1800 458 752 to tell us you are coming!

OVERSEAS

Mardi goes to India

Mardi visits Durbar, the Sex Worker Organisation in Kolkata, India. Durbar is the collectivisation of 65,000 sex workers which functions as an exclusive forum of female, male and trans* sex workers in West Bengal.



Resource development

Trans*: RhED is developing new resources for trans* people working in the sex industry. We are looking for trans* sex workers to join the reference group for this project, so please pass on the details to your trans* sex worker contacts/clients. Contact Sarah Rogan.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

First National Sexual & Reproductive Health Conference, Public Health Australia 2012

and

ASSERT conference 2012

RhED presented a paper entitled *RhED Light – STI testing in Melbourne brothels* detailing our pilot project (in collaboration with the ISCHS Sexual & Reproductive Health nurse).

LEPH Law Enforcement and Public Health RhED presented at the first International Conference on Law Enforcement and Public Health (LEPH) in Melbourne and showcased the work of the Arrest Referral Program (ARP) and the Ugly Mugs program.



IN THE NEWS

Brothel Provides Sex Workers Exclusively for the Disabled

<http://bit.ly/RCscHh>

Brazilian sex workers in Belo Horizonte are

signing up in droves for free language lessons to prepare for the 2014 World Cup.

<http://bit.ly/U41tBX>

I've been a sex worker for over ten years

<http://bit.ly/VQgWYp>

Working girl

<http://bit.ly/WuX1fw>

Leading civil libertarian slams 'discrimination' against sex workers

<http://bit.ly/10SY67J>



Thank-You!

RhED thanks key stakeholders and supporters for their ongoing support.

RhED provides education/information sessions to agencies, workplaces, education/learning centres and the general community. Presentations and talks are tailored to audience needs. For further information please contact RhED on 1800 458 752 or sexworker@sexworker.org.au

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www.sexworker.org.au

In the RhED Light



Young Women's Support Program — Case Management Service

Support for young women surrounding housing, sex work and sexual health, legal matters, education and training, social and recreational activities, alcohol and drugs and mental health. Secondary consultations regarding young people and sex work available. Currently taking referrals, please contact Stephanie on 1800 458 752.

Pathways to Exit (PTE)

PTE has been meeting with a range of Job Services Australia (JSA) providers across the Melbourne Metro area to broaden their scope of referral points for clients. We are attempting to have a sound knowledge of Victorian supports and services to best meet the needs of clients when accessing JSA services.



RhED Health Educators: CALD: Mardi Kennedy **Communications:** Gabby Skelsey **Male & Trans*:** Sarah Rogan
Ugly Mugs: Catriona Hodgson **PTE:** Kris Lake/Rachel Shankland **Young Women's Support Worker:** Stephanie Kiesel
ARP: Emily Gillespie/Sally Boothby **Co-ordinator:** Sandra Gibson