

SHANTUSI

SURVEYING HIV AND NEED IN THE UNREGULATED SEX INDUSTRY

Executive Summary

An Inner South Community Health Service
/ RMIT University collaboration

This project was funded by Victorian Department of Health.

Dr James Rowe
Research Fellow

Centre for Applied Social Research
RMIT University



The Shantusi Report (Surveying HIV and need in the unregulated sex industry) was launched at Shining A Red Light Symposium in May 2011.

The participants included:

- 100 street-based sex workers
 - 89 recruited in St Kilda (75 woman, 7 transsexuals, 7 men)
 - 11 recruited in Footscray (all woman)
- 21 migrant workers engaged in unregulated sex work (all woman)
- 24 private escorts advertising online (10 woman, 8 men, 6 transsexuals)

The report addresses:

- Pathways onto the St Kilda streets
- Need and entrenchment in the street-based sex industry
- HIV prevalence and high-risk behaviours on the street
- An emergent street sex scene: Footscray CBD
- Migrant workers in the unregulated sex industry
- Working 'privately' without regulation

Copies of the report are available from RhED.

Email sexworker@sexworker.org.au

Phone: 1800 458 752

PATHWAYS TO EXIT

In recent news, the Pathways Project has said farewell to Alice Jalland, case manager on the Pathways to Exit Program. RhED would like to thank Alice for her wonderful contribution to the project over the last year.

RhED now welcomes Kris Lake who has joined the team and is the person to contact if you are thinking of expanding your opportunities outside of the sex industry.

The Project 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 Project continues to assist sex workers who wish to explore mainstream work and study opportunities outside of the sex industry. It is designed to support sex workers in exploring continuing learning and planning for their future. The service is non-judgmental and focused on empowering and supporting sex workers.

The Project provides individual and holistic support,

through a case-manager, for workers to consider new career directions, develop a plan and link in with alternative work and study opportunities. As a part of this process, the program has a focus on providing information, support and referral for the individual needs of workers who are making the transition. This includes support with housing, management of debt, emotional support and counselling.

The Pathways Project has partnerships with relevant specialist agencies that have assisted participants in securing employment through development of a resume, job search and job interview preparation.

If you are interested in more information about the Project, please contact RhED on 1800 458 752.

Kris Lake - Pathways Project
Free call 1800 458 752 Or 03 9534 8166
Or drop in to 10 Inkerman St, St Kilda