

Pillow Talk

Five Years Experience

CONTRIBUTION

MALE SEX WORKER

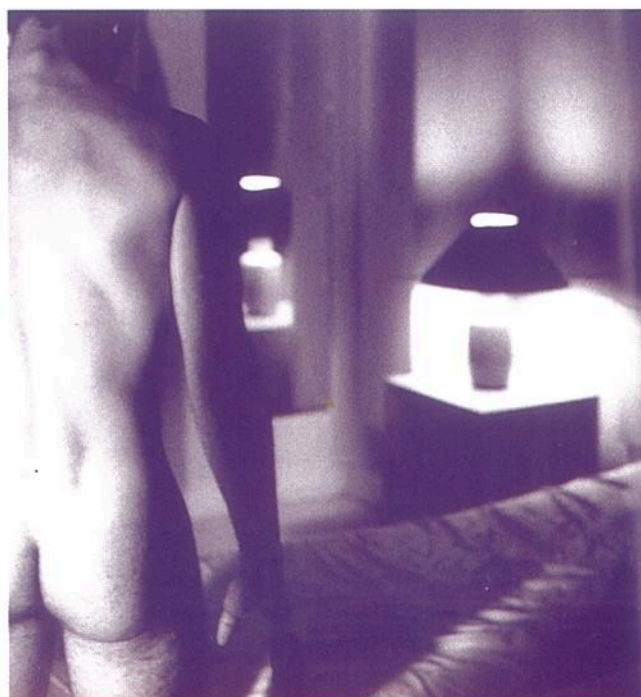
I had always considered becoming an escort. I was first approached by another worker when I was 21 who said I would be a great candidate and make lots of money. I said no because I was afraid of being around drug abuse and worried about the security of the job.

I've been a sex worker now for roughly five years and my 21-year-old impression of the industry has completely changed. I still remember my very first client. I was so nervous and worried. He turned out to be the nicest and most respectful guy who didn't expect too much of me, except the usual expectation of performing for him. I was so nervous I could barely get it up but that changed once we relaxed into the experience. It just came naturally after that and I even enjoyed it. I walked away thinking "that wasn't so bad at all" and happy I had cash in my pocket, had met a nice guy and even got laid in the meantime.

Five years on and things are different but not in a bad way. I've been through the highs and lows of doing this on a casual basis to now as a full-time worker with sex work, my main source of income. I've had some amazing experiences in really cool locations; met some interesting and inspirational people; and had some pretty hot times, including with other sex workers on the same booking. But I've also had some tough jobs that were very long and demanding; I've been asked to do some uncomfortable and let's say, not so pleasant things; and from time to time I've come across some rude and disrespectful clients. Though overall, I have enjoyed my experience as a sex worker and learned a tremendous amount which will benefit me for the rest of my life.

The main things I have learned are who I really am; my personal limitations; and the true nature of people behind the scenes in a way that most others would never get to see. As time went on I really started to appreciate the benefits of being in this industry and how it can help all areas of my life. I have developed tremendously. I've learned how to run a small business; manage my time; structure myself and identify priorities; and learned how to manage my money! That last one was the toughest considering the nature of the huge fluctuations in income.

So, what's my impression of the industry now after five or so years? It's an industry that, when approached with a level head and the right attitude, can provide an excellent kick-start and springboard for a successful future.





Differences in framework between Australian cities and New Zealand

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I'm fortunate enough to be able to travel to New Zealand as an escort every month, as well as a few of Australia's capital cities regularly. There are significant differences between the laws and regulations in each location but generally they are fairly similar.

I started working in Melbourne about five years ago, which has some of the toughest laws surrounding sex work, so I have been pleased with the more liberal situation, in other locations here in Australia and in New Zealand.

I find New Zealand to be the easiest place to work with the least amount of fear. I feel I can advertise without watching what I say or post (within respectful boundaries); I can offer in-calls safely without worrying about security or the police as much; and there is a healthy support network there. The general client attitude in New Zealand seems to be more reserved than Australia, which I find to be really contrasting to the liberal laws and regulations. A lot of clients still seem to

believe it's illegal to be a sex worker in NZ which I found rather surprising, compared with clients in Australia.

Outside of Melbourne I found Brisbane to be the least pleasant state to work. I always feel I will get caught in a police sting even though everything I do is legal and I feel I must watch closely what I advertise. The laws and general attitudes seem to be very negative towards the sex industry. I feel hesitant to go to authorities if I was to ever need help, but so far so good. Perth would be the next city. The laws there seem to be a bit more liberal than Brisbane but the 'grey area' still gives me a sense of hesitation and caution.

Sydney is by far the easiest Australian city to work in. The laws and attitudes are the most liberal which creates a safe environment for me and a level of comfortability I would like in other states. Just the idea that I can advertise relatively freely and perform my job without fear of the authorities makes it an ideal location to work. Hopefully Melbourne heads more in that direction.

