

Starting Out: Topless Waitressing



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Welcome to the Victorian sex industry!

This information is for people who are interested in, or currently providing sexually explicit entertainment privately (stripping) through an agency as topless waitresses.

Topless waitressing differs from club-based stripping in numerous ways. Unlike club-based stripping, topless waitressing may involve the provision of sexually explicit entertainment outside of a licenced venue (i.e. in someone's private residence). Topless waitressing is also unregulated, in contrast to club-based stripping.

Topless waitresses providing sexually explicit entertainment via agencies differ significantly from full service sex workers who engage in the provision of sexual services (i.e. full-service sex workers that may be brothel-based, work for an escort agency or as independent escorts), however there may be some instances in topless waitressing in which the provision of sexual services may occur. Should you have any questions or concerns as they relate to sexual services versus sexually explicit entertainment, contact RhED for more information.

RhED would like to thank the sex workers that participated in the development of this resource and shared their insight and knowledge. We acknowledge that not everyone's experience is going to be the same. If you need more information than this fact sheet provides, please call us, email or arrange a drop-in for free confidential support.

Sexual Services vs Sexually Explicit Entertainment

It is important for topless waitresses to acknowledge the differences between sexual services and sexually explicit entertainment to ensure that what they are providing is permitted within the context/space they are providing it in. The Sex Work Act 1994 defined the following as sexual services:

- (a)** taking part with another person in an act of sexual penetration; and
- (b)** masturbating another person; and
- (c)** permitting one or more other persons to view any of the following occurring in their presence
 - (i)* two or more persons taking part in an act of sexual penetration;
 - (ii)* a person introducing (to any extent) an object or a part of their body into their own vagina or anus;

(iii) a person masturbating himself or herself or two or more persons masturbating themselves or each other or one or more of them— in circumstances in which—

(iv) there is any form of direct physical contact between any person viewing the occurrence and any person taking part in the occurrence; or

(v) any person viewing the occurrence is permitted or encouraged to masturbate himself or herself while viewing— and, for the purposes of this definition, a person may be regarded as being masturbated whether or not the genital part of his or her body is clothed or the masturbation results in orgasm;

Source: [Sex Work Act 1994](#)

Before you start

When starting in any new industry it's important to think about your goals and expectations. Within the sex industry it's important to also gain a clear understanding of what your personal boundaries and limits are. Here are some pointers from other sex workers to consider when starting out:

Have you ever worked as a topless waitress previously? Have you ever worked as a stripper in a club? One of the best ways to get an idea as to whether or not this type of sex work is right for you is to visit a strip club, as they offer the most accessible way in which to observe some aspects of stripping-work more generally. Bring someone you are comfortable with and go see how strippers work within the club. Often, women patrons are given free entry on certain nights of the week (this has historically been on a Friday night in Melbourne). Alternatively, if you have a friend who already works at a strip club, ask to see if they can put your name 'on the door' for discounted or free entry. Observe how strippers work on stage, with patrons, and in private dances. Offering a tip or paying for a private dance may enable you to ask questions about the work itself and get a 'preview' of what stripping in general may be like for you.

It is important to note that you do not need to necessarily know how to pole dance in order to work as a stripper; this is even less relevant for topless waitressing. In most cases in the context of topless waitressing, you will not even encounter a pole to use. Instead, private lap dances, drinking games and themed shows are often offered. Knowing how to perform particular shows and feeling confident in erotic dance movements is much more important than pole dancing in topless waitressing.

Topless waitressing often involves varying degrees of touching. It is common for topless waitresses to charge more for a touching dance, compared to non-touching dances. Decide what degree of touching you are comfortable with.

There is no guarantee that you will make a lot of money, and your earnings will often fluctuate throughout the year. Some topless waitresses compensate during the periods when earnings are less by balancing a second or casual job alongside sex work during those periods, or simply by financial planning and budgeting.

Peer Groups

Stigma, working alone and not being 'out' to friends and family can make topless waitressing an isolating profession. Additionally, topless waitressing requires a significant amount of networking to access Whatsapp groups. However, there are spaces where topless waitresses come together to share information, network, debrief and support one another. Having a peer-based community who understands your experiences may help you to feel understood and supported without having to put in the emotional labour of trying to explain your work first. Outside of the social support, peer groups are also a great way to source information and ask questions regarding just about anything relating to the sex industry. Consider accessing the peer spaces below and from here you will be able to learn about more private/hidden online spaces that you can join to help you feel connected.

[Salome's Circle](#)

[Stripperweb](#)

Agencies

Topless waitressing is coordinated formally through an agency, or informally through another independent party acting as a booking agent. Most often informal booking agents are former strippers/topless waitresses. Most agencies operate via WhatsApp groups, whereas a smaller number of agencies operate via their own booking platform. Often, if you are recruited by an agency, you will eventually be added into their WhatsApp group if they have one. Accessing WhatsApp groups for private stripping jobs often requires a substantial amount of networking within the private stripping community. Networking can be facilitated within sex worker/stripper peer spaces. This is important to consider, particularly if you are new to stripping in general and to topless waitressing more specifically. RhED can support you with more information regarding agencies, whatsapp groups and peer spaces.

Choosing and applying for work through an agency

As an topless waitress you are considered self-employed and are subcontracted by an agency. This means you make the choice of which agency you want to work for and that you're interviewing the agency just as much as they are interviewing you.

In Victoria, there are numerous agencies and independent WhatsApp groups you can choose to work from. Topless waitresses may work across multiple agencies/groups. When you are deciding upon which stripping agency/independent WhatsApp group you would like to work for, it is recommended to speak with other topless waitresses (if possible) to gauge what the work is like through a particular agency/independent WhatsApp group. This can often present a challenge for someone just starting out in the sector, with little or no connection to the Victorian stripper community. Reaching out to sex worker peer community groups may assist you in networking within the community and assist you in making an informed decision on where you would prefer to work. Alternatively, going to a strip club as a patron may enable you to network with the strippers on shift (but remember, they are working!).

Once you have decided upon an agency to apply at, you will need to call, email, or fill out an application online. Often you will need to submit a collage of professional photos (mix of face and full body pictures) along with your email or application, and outline your experience and what type of work you are interested in (i.e. waitressing or working as a showgirl or both). If you want to work as a showgirl most agencies will require/desire experience in performing strip shows.

If the chosen agency is interested, they will contact you back and may ask you for more detailed information such as body measurements, whether you have a car, if you are comfortable working alone and if you have a current Responsible Service of Alcohol (RSA).

Visas

As long as you have the ability to work in Australia on your visa, it is legal to engage in topless waitressing in Victoria. If you need support with migration law, Department of Immigration and Citizenship or anything related to your visa, contact RhED directly.

Despite not being formally regulated by a government agency/ industry body, the following may be required in order to work for most agencies in Victoria.

Topless waitressing Requirements:

- A current Responsible Service of Alcohol (RSA)
- Professional indemnity insurance/Public Liability insurance
- Be over the age of 18 years
- Not work a job if there are underage clients present (regardless of whether or not a guardian is present)

Getting started in the topless waitressing work can be challenging for sex workers unfamiliar with this sector. If you have questions on getting started, contact a RhED health educator for more information and support!

Types of Topless waiting & 'uniforms'

- Lingerie wait person: Usually in a three-piece lingerie set or similar with nipples, buttocks and vulva covered.
- Topless wait person: Topless but may wear skirt/shorts to cover bottom half – you can then 'upgrade' to G-string package for additional cost. Pasties/nipple coverings are not allowed.
- G-String wait person: Topless and wearing G-String.
- Full nude wait person: Nude, can wear stocking, garters and shoes.
- Full package wait person: 1-hour lingerie, 1-hour topless and 1-hour nude.
- Topless Poker Dealing: Must be skilled at poker dealing and usually deals cards while topless. Does not usually have to perform hospitality duties like making drinks.

Names and packages could be different depending on the agent/agency

How does it work?

Topless waitressing is quite different than club-based stripping in that in that topless waitresses work only when booked for a function through an agent. Getting work through an agency usually goes as follows:

1. Client contacts the agent/agency to request topless waitresses for a job.
2. Date, time, location, number of topless waitresses and any other requirements (i.e. dress code) are confirmed along with the fee.
3. Agent provides job description and may attach a special note to the booking to describe the client group and client group size (i.e. if it's a booking by a motorcycle club the note may state that it's a 'clubhouse' booking). Sub-contractors respond if they are available and want to work the job in question.
4. Photos of available sub-contractors are sent back to client to choose.
5. Job is confirmed with chosen sub-contractors along with how much to collect on the job, location, time and other specific job details.
6. Topless waitresses will be entitled to a travel fee if the location is outside of the Melbourne CBD (ranging from approximately \$10-\$1000). This fee will be collected along with your booking fee from the client.
7. A deposit is paid by the client to the agent and the remaining fee goes directly to the entertainer at the job (cash only). The deposit paid initially by the client is considered the Agent's Commission on the booking. The deposit is non-refundable.
8. The deposit is non-refundable if the client cancels. If the topless waitress cancels, a replacement topless waitress will be provided. If the topless waitress cancels with little to no notice (usually less than 24 hours), they could incur a cancellation fee of approximately \$50-\$100.

What to expect in the booking

Minimum bookings are usually two hours, and it is advisable to carry a watch with you to keep track of the time. Call the client using a private number to let them know that you have arrived or ring the doorbell (if at a private residence). Introduce yourself and ask for a place to change into your work attire and ensure that you ask for the booking money upfront. If you are entitled to a travel fee, also make sure you receive this from the client along with your booking fee.

Most often, the client has already paid the commission to the agent, but there are instances in which you may need to collect the agent's fee in addition to your own (which will need to be given to the agent after the job has finished). If you need to pay the commission separately to the agent, ensure you do so in accordance with their policies. Refusing to pay commission has historically resulted in strippers being blacklisted by an agency and/or multiple agencies. Many agents will give approximately 3 business days for this to be completed.

If you are ever unsure of work-related prices, or simply want to check-in with the agent to let them know you've arrived safely, you can always do so at the start or during your shift. If you ever feel unsafe, you can always contact the agent to advise them and leave the premises.

If you are waitressing, check in with the clients as to what drinks are being served and where. You will be able to, and expected to, offer what is available at the function to the clients throughout the shift. This is not applicable to showgirls.

Collecting payment from dances

Always collect the money upon arrival. During the booking, you will be able to offer private lap dances or upsell (i.e. upgrading from lingerie to full-nude waiting). Historically individual lap dance prices have ranged between \$50-\$100 for 10 minutes (depending on the dancer, agency and if touching is permitted or not). It is important to note that individual lap dances do not incur a commission fee. If you are working alongside other workers, it is wise to coordinate dance prices, whether touching dances are offered, and dance lengths to ensure no one is disadvantaged. Close to the end of the booking time, you can offer to extend should you choose to and if it is feasible.

Collecting Payment from Dances cont...

It is always wise to collect payment from customers up front for all dances undertaken. It is important to ensure that your earnings throughout the night are always on you or in a secure location. Many topless waitresses will either opt for:

- Carrying their money on their wrist, secured with elastic bands,
- Carried in a purse,
- Secured to the ankle and shoe with the use of a garter and elastic bands.

Many topless waitresses historically have opted for using a purse/small handbag as opposed to wearing it on their person. This is more of an 'aesthetic' choice, as many have described that having their money concealed helps keep the 'illusion' of the 'party atmosphere,' and hence helps their work. If choosing to use a handbag or small purse, just ensure that you either are able to keep it on you at all times, or that you have somewhere safe to store it during the booking.

Professional Indemnity and Public Liability Insurance

Topless waitresses are expected to hold their own public liability and professional indemnity insurance. Booking agents often stipulate this in their Terms & Conditions for clients. AIBI and Duck for Cover are often used amongst strippers and topless waitresses in Victoria. Should you have further questions on public liability and professional indemnity insurance, contact RhED for more information and support!

Finishing your booking

If no extensions have been agreed to, then you have finished the booking at the time originally decided upon. Ensure that you gather your belongings (and change) prior to leaving. Once you have left the booking, contact the agent to let them know that the booking has concluded and how it went.

Leaving Work & Safety

Topless waitresses may finish a booking at any time of day/night. It is important to ensure that you exercise caution when leaving the site of the booking. Make sure that your earnings from the night are stored safely on your person or in your work bag. If you completed the booking with other workers, it is always wise to leave the premises together if possible.

Types of Stripping Shows

Raunchy – Performer strips down to a g-string only and is usually dressed in a themed costume.

Strawberries & Cream – erotic show involving strawberries, whipped cream and sometimes candle wax.

Bubble Bath – erotic show with water, soap and bubbles.

XXX Show/Raunchy with the Lot – a full nude show with either strawberries/cream, hot wax or bubble bath.

Dominatrix Show – usually involves the whipping and humiliation of the main guest.

Hot Vibe – Erotic show including insertion of vibrators, pearls and/or other toys.

Hot Vibe with The Lot – a combination of a vibrator shows with either strawberries/cream or bubble bath and usually involves the main guest.

Lesbian Show – involves two entertainers performing an erotic show with toy insertion.

Fatagram Show – a curvier entertainer performing a show.

Fruit & Vegetable Show – involves insertion of fruits and vegetables.

Greek show – involves anal toys/beads insertion

*Names and packages could be different depending on the agent/agency/performer.

Contact RhED for more information on providing sexual services and the legal requirements that you would need to consider.

Upselling and Extensions

If you are able to upsell at the booking (i.e. lingerie waitress to full nude), you will need to collect the difference in payment for yourself, and the difference in commission for the agent. If you are able to extend the booking, you will need to take a new booking fee from the client(s) (including the agent's commission). Some topless waitresses choose to pay this immediately to their agent via bank transfer once it has been confirmed and consented to by the client. Check in with your agent as to when their commission needs to be paid by (often agencies will give up to 3 business days for you to send the commission fee).

Blacklisting

Blacklisting (in the context of topless waitressing) can occur in a number of ways and can apply to a) topless waitresses, b) agencies or c) clients. a) A topless waitress may be blacklisted if there has been a significant breach of policies or by not paying the agency commission owed. This may impact on the topless waitress getting future work through the agency, or even other agencies. b) If multiple topless waitresses experience maltreatment by an agency, the agency or agent may be blacklisted by topless waitresses. This information is usually shared within peer spaces. c) If clients repeatedly breach the T&Cs of the service, engage in inappropriate behaviour or assault, and/or refuse payment for services then the client(s) risk being blacklisted.

Health and Safety Concerns

Blisters & The Right Shoes

Using the 'right shoes' is vital in both stripping in clubs and topless waitressing as a general rule. Standard high heels will not suffice for stripping, whether in a club or working for an agency as a topless waitress. In the context of topless waitressing, you could be performing at someone's residence: uneven floors, carpet and stairs will be unforgiving if wearing civilian high heels. Investing in stripper/pole dancing high heels will be your (ongoing) lifeline at work. Not all jobs will require heels. Some occasions/jobs may require or permit sneakers/runners instead of high heels.

'Pleasers' are a common brand of stripper/pole dancing heels. Some local resources for stripper/ pole dancing high heels can be found here:

<https://shoeme.com.au/>

<https://highheels.com.au/>

<https://spiceup.com.au/>

<https://www.beserk.com.au/>

<https://www.exoticfootwear.com.au/>

TIP: Having a spare pair of shoes or shoe straps on you during a shift will be life-saving. Even a good quality pair of Pleasers can break during a shift (straps snapping off, heels breaking, bottom of shoe tearing, splits in materials, etc).

Although you will be working in high heels during your shift, some topless waitresses may choose to remove their shoes during dances, especially in instances whereby dancing in the heels may pose a greater safety risk than without (i.e. you are providing a dance on a bed/sofa).

Piercings and the Logistics of Stripping

For those topless waitresses with piercings (particularly pierced nipples, clitoral hoods, inner labia and navels), the logistics of stripping can get a bit tricky. Being cautious with stripping and choosing the right lingerie/outfits can make all the difference in ensuring that your piercing stays where it's meant to be. Avoiding the use of very lacey items may help to prevent accidentally ripping out a piercing. Wear piercing jewellery that is 'work appropriate' (i.e. less likely to catch on fabric).

STIs & Safe Cleaning of Toys

For showgirls using toys during their shows, it is very important to ensure proper storage, handling and cleaning of toys used to avoid contraction of an STI or bacterial infection. Always ensure that you have a safe place to store your toys during a booking when not in use to avoid cross-contamination. Dangerous Lily has a blog on safer cleaning methods and safer storage of sex toys organised according to the material they are made out of that could be useful to showgirls performing with toys: [http:// dangerouslilly.com/sex-toy-reviews/sex-toy-careand-maintenance/](http://dangerouslilly.com/sex-toy-reviews/sex-toy-careand-maintenance/)

Sexual Assault

Sexual assault is not something you should expect to experience at work. It is not a part of the job. However, it is something to be aware of as it can happen. This is of particular importance in the topless waitressing context wherein the consumption of alcohol is often present.

Topless waitresses and strippers working in clubs have reported instances of physical and sexual assault which may or may not include: digital penetration, physical restraint, touching, groping, kissing and/or licking without consent. Should this occur during a booking, contact your agent as soon as possible to let them know what has happened and get to somewhere safe. You will be able to cancel the booking, and the client will not be entitled to a refund. If you are working with another topless waitress(es), you may seek their support as well.

You are within your rights to call the police and file a police report should you choose to. Agencies will then decide whether or not the clients' behaviours warrant them being blacklisted by the agency. If the clients are blacklisted by the agency, the clients will no longer be able to book services through that particular agent. Often, blacklisted client information is shared across different agencies in Victoria and WhatsApp groups, which in turn may prevent the client from booking through alternative agencies.

It is important to note that if a client behaves in any way that makes you feel unsafe or uncomfortable you have the right to cancel or end the booking. Always make sure to feed this back to the agent. An agent may decide to refrain from sending more workers out to that particular booking temporarily. Agents will also blacklist clients if they repeatedly engage in what is considered to be problematic behaviour, so it is always important to reach out to your agent should you experience this during a booking!

RhED can offer further assistance, if you are physically and/or sexually assaulted at work. RhED can provide peer debriefing, referrals to sex worker-friendly psychologists and other mental health resources, information related to peer support groups, crisis supports (e.g. Centres Against Sexual Assault, The Sexual Assault Crisis Line Victoria and 1800 Respect) and can assist a worker in filing a report to police.

RhED can also assist you in completing an Ugly Mug report.

Support

SACL (The Sexual Assault Crisis Line Victoria)

www.sacl.com.au/

24 hour crisis line: **1800 806 292**

The Sexual Assault Crisis Line Victoria (SACL) is a state-wide, after-hours, confidential, telephone crisis counselling service for people who have experienced both past and recent sexual assault.

1800 RESPECT: 1800 737 732

National sexual assault & domestic family violence counselling service

CASA (Centres Against Sexual Assault)

www.casa.org.au

24 hour crisis line: **1800 806 292**

There are 14 CASAs across the state of Victoria and the Victorian Sexual Assault Crisis Line 2 (after hours).

These offer free, confidential 24 hour emergency or crisis care for victim/survivors of sexual assault.

This includes crisis counselling support, access to medical care and legal services as well as counselling support for adults who were abused in their childhood.

Filming/Photography during a booking

Filming and photography by clients are prohibited during the booking. The exception to this rule is if a topless waitress gives explicit permission at the booking. Should clients engage in unauthorised filming or photography, and refuse to stop, you are within your rights to cancel the remainder of the booking. If you do cancel the booking/end the booking early, ensure that you inform the agency as soon as possible. The agent will determine whether or not to send any subsequent workers or if the clients in question should be blacklisted.

Alcohol and Other Drugs at Work

Should you choose to consume alcohol at work, be sure to do so responsibly. It is important never to leave your drink unattended, as drink spiking is a risk. Overconsumption of alcohol at work could lead to the inability to complete the booking. There are many workers who choose not to drink alcohol at work, but it can sometimes be difficult to tell this to clients.

Common examples of reasons given to customers as to why topless waitresses may not drink alcohol at work have been:

1. needing to drive after work
2. needing to be alert for an 8-12 hour shift
3. alcohol intolerance
4. taking medication that cannot be mixed with alcohol and beyond.

For workers that do choose to consume alcohol at work and drive, it may be wise to explore alternative transport options to and from work on the shifts you choose to drink. It is also important to note that there have been instances in which topless waitresses have worked at bookings in which clients were partaking in the consumption of illegal drugs. Always exercise caution if you decide to consume illegal substances during a booking. There have been some cases in recent years of clients' attempting to drug strippers with GHB-laced Listerine tabs.

Topless Waitressing Tips

Topless Waitress Tip #1:

Bring music (on your phone). Otherwise suffer the music selection of the client.

Topless Waitress Tip #2:

Cheap perfume is your friend. Topless waitresses (similar to stripper in clubs) often "re-spray" several times a night—especially if they have multiple bookings or long bookings-- an expensive bottle is just not worth wasting. In Victoria brands like "Hello Kitty Bubblegum" and "Britney Spears Fantasy Collection" have been commonly used.

Topless Waitress Tip #3:

It is always advisable to bring extra lingerie/costumes with you. If you are able to upsell or extend the booking, having something on hand will be useful (and might make you more money!)

Topless Waitress Tip #4:

Yes! You can work during your menstrual cycle. Topless waitresses will often use cups, sponges or tampons at work during their cycle. If using a tampon, either tuck or cut the string (but ensure it is still retrievable).

Topless Waitress Tip #5:

If you are going to do 'double shows' or 'lesbian shows' with another topless waitress, always check in with them first to see what both of you are comfortable with.

Doing this blind can lead to miscommunication and sometimes can lead to breaching another stripper's personal boundaries.

Topless Waitress Tip #6:

Carrying superglue, electrical tape, clear nail polish and hairspray can help with "costume fails." Superglue and electrical tape can be used for quick and dirty shoe repairs. Clear nail polish and hairspray can be helpful to prevent snags from turning into tears in your stockings/ knee highs and thigh highs. As already mentioned, it still is wise to carry extra outfits and shoes *just in case*.

Topless Waitress Tip #7:

If you are concerned about your safety and wellbeing whilst at a booking, it may be wise to have a friend you can check in with before, during and after the booking. You can also use GPS tracking apps such as 'Find My Friends', 'GeoZilla' and/or 'Glympse' with a trusted person, friend or relative for added peace of mind.

Topless Waitress Tip #8:

Strappy lingerie is not recommended. The topless waitressing world is fast-paced, and you will be constantly taking your outfit on and off throughout the shift. Depending on where you provide dances, you may have to operate in dim lighting. Use an outfit that is easy to take off and put back on quickly.

Common terminology used in topless waitressing

Agent	The agent is the person organising the booking for you/the entertainment. Agents can be an already established agency or another stripper (WhatsApp) who has regulars and are looking for more strippers.
Baby Stripper	Someone new to the stripping industry.
Blacklisting	Blacklisting (in the context of topless waitressing) can occur if there has been a significant breach of policies or by not paying the agency commission owed. This may result in the worker's inability to secure more work through that particular agency and possibly other affiliated agencies.
Commission	This is the fee that is paid to the agent for the booking. For example, a job is advertised at \$320 with \$80 commission which means the entertainer picks up \$320 on arrival, keeps \$240 and gives \$80 to the agent.
Hustle	Some topless waitresses outsource drivers to take them to work, something like a personal uber. Usually the driver will wait outside the venue until the shift is over –sometimes they act as security guards if necessary.
Doubles	Performing a show/dance with another worker or performing a 'lesbian' show where kissing and touching between the two entertainers is involved. Some lesbian performances involve fake cunnilingus by pretending to lick near the inner groin area and using the hair to cover the action.
Extras	This can refer to anything that topless waitresses can use to make extra cash on the job however it most commonly refers to elements of full-service sex work/sexual services. Contracts can be terminated if the agency finds out you are providing sexual services. Other extras could include erotic or remedial massages, lap dances, speciality shows and beyond. All extras are at the discretion of the worker but it's important to ensure that the other workers present are comfortable with what you are offering. For example, if you offer sexual services as an extra but the other workers don't, the client may assume that all workers provide this service and it could limit the other workers earning potential. The general rule is that no sexual services and private stripping/ waiting work is to be mixed and should be kept separate for safety reasons and to ensure there is no undercutting.
Extensions/Extend:	When the entertainer is asked to stay for additional hours by the party guests for additional fees. The entertainer must let the booking agent know if they have 'extended' a job and pay the commission fee.
Floor-Work	Dancing whilst lying down on a floor or stage. Often involves moving one's legs in different directions sensually.
Hustle	Selling lap dances.
Lappies	Lap dances at private jobs are usually split into two categories; 1 song or 2 songs. 1 song usually refers to 3-5 minutes or timing equivalent of 1 song and doesn't involve touching but can involve straddling or the stripper touching the client (chest, legs). 2 songs usually refer to a longer dance (approximately 10 minutes) with touching above the waist from the client (chest, arms, legs – touching is at the discretion of the stripper).

Common terminology used in stripping

Motorboat	The act of shaking your breasts firmly in someone's face.
Party Girls	Workers who consume illegal drugs during bookings. Get in touch with RhED for our 'party bookings' resource which contains useful information regarding consuming illicit drugs at work.
Pineapple	\$50 note.
Reg/Regular	Returning client/patron.
Security/Security Guards	Some topless waitresses outsource their own private security guard to accompany them to jobs – this is a safety precaution and security guards can step in when clients are inappropriate, aggressive, refuse to pay etc. It is not common for topless waitresses to have security guards supplied by the agent.
Shows	Waitresses can 'upsell' shows while on shift by performing a 5-20 minute strip show to the client group. This requires a commission fee to be paid to the agent.
Solo Job	This refers to jobs that have only requested one topless waitress for a specific time. Some workers do not work 'solo jobs' for safety reasons. It is important that agents provide information if the job is 'solo' or not so that strippers do not apply for work they are uncomfortable with.
Stealing clients:	'Stealing' another's customer by exchanging contact details including social media accounts to try and get the client to book them directly without going through an agent. This can also occur when for instance a stripper is speaking to one or more customers and another stripper begins to hustle the same group without invitation/asking.
Time-Waster	Customer who tries to keep you as company without payment.
Travel Fee	If you are travelling 30 minutes outside of Melbourne CBD, you are usually entitled to a travel fee.
Upgrade:	The act of upselling to a client a service to earn more money. For example, "I'm hired as a lingerie waitress, but do you want to upgrade to topless for an additional \$ per hour?"
Work-Wife	A regular working relationship between two topless waitresses/strippers in which the two workers frequently or exclusively hustle together.



Remember

Sex work is real work. You are working in a legitimate industry in Victoria. You have the same human rights as anyone else.

Wellbeing

The benefits of exercise and enough rest are self-evident, though sometime difficult to achieve, especially with the irregular hours that come with working in the sex industry. The secret seems to be choosing a form of exercise which you enjoy. This will in turn improve your quality of sleep.

Have you thought about who you are going to tell?

It's important to have people that you can talk with about your experiences in the sex industry. However, it can also sometimes be important to get away from your work completely and be in a space where no one knows what you do for a living. Consider who you may and who you may not tell and how you believe they will react. Contact RhED if you'd like any tips or support.

If you don't think you'll stay in the industry forever, do you have a plan for life after sex work?

Due to stigma and structural discrimination, some sex workers have reported difficulty moving on from sex work. Issues they have experienced include a lack of options, gaps in work history and difficulty in finding an alternative that offers the same flexibility or income. This is perpetuated by the stigma of sex work, and lack of understanding of transferrable skills sex work provides. RhED has a program called Pathways designed to help workers navigate these issues.

Information about how RhED can support you

RhED is a sex worker program in Victoria, supporting current and former sex workers. RhED is a program of Star Health and is staffed by people who have worked, or are working in the industry, and allies.

RhED maintains strict confidentiality and privacy around all issues and contacts with sex workers.

RhED provide:

Health education, information, support, referrals to sex worker-friendly services (such as accountants, GPs and counsellors) and advocacy to people who work in the sex industry. We do this by telephone, outreach and email.

Professional development workshops to sex workers who are starting out in the industry, working in the industry and just wanting to refresh skills. Some of our topics include working with disability, tax and finance, BDSM and kink, STIs and sexual health knowledge. If you have an idea for a workshop you'd like to see please reach out and let us know!

A free industry **magazine (RED)** twice yearly. This is circulated to all brothels and individuals who wish to subscribe. Subscription is free and if you would to receive copies, please forward your name and postal address. Your name can be "The Occupier" and the magazine is delivered in a plain envelope.

A weekly drop-in space called Hustling to Health (H2H). This runs from 5:00pm – 9:00pm every Friday at 36 Greeves Street, St Kilda. Here workers can connect, get support, free dinner, shower, tea, coffee, clothing and safer sex/NSP supplies.

A weekly drop-in space at **St Kilda Gatehouse** on a Wednesday between 12pm - 5pm for workers to grab supplies, ask for referrals and information, or just have a chat.

An **Ugly Mug** reporting system. This is for reporting and warning system about dangerous, violent or nuisance clients or sex workers in Victoria. If you have any further questions, feel free to give us a call on 1800 458 752.