People working in the sex industry

Our Diverse Communities

Despite the perception that most sex workers are working on the street, approximately 1% of Victorian sex workers are street-based

A 2020 survey of over 600 sex workers across Australia indicated 96% of respondents reported experiencing stigma or discrimination related to their sex work within the last 12 months

34% of those respondents said this ‘often’ or ‘always’ occurred

91% of sex workers surveyed reported negative treatment by health workers including 24% who indicated this ‘often’ or ‘always’ happened

The most-commonly reported discrimination by people in the sex work industry include:

- accommodation & housing
- employment
- health
- family matters
- financial services
- insurance
- advertising

Banyule City Council

Sex Work Law Reform Victoria, Scarlett Alliance - Anti-discrimination & vilification protections for sex workers in Australia 2021, University of New South Wales, Stigma Indicators Monitoring Project (https://www.unsw.edu.au/research/csrh/our-projects/stigma-research-stream)