

**2017-18 Budget Estimates Inquiry**  
**Response to question taken on notice for the Health portfolio at the**  
**Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulations hearing held on 31 May 2017**

Question 2	In relation to the 'Pathways to Exit – Expansion' output initiative (Budget Paper No.3, p.78), please explain 'who is doing that assertive outreach program to exit these women out of sex work ... and if any of that money [\$1 million per year] [is] going to Project Respect ' <i>(Pages 9-10 of the Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation portfolio transcript)</i>
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**Response:**

The 2017-18 State Budget provided an additional \$4 million over four years to expand the Pathways to Exit program which has been operating in Victoria since 2010.

Through its Resourcing Health Education in the sex industry program, Star Health (a community health service) is funded to deliver the Pathways to Exit program. This program supports sex workers who wish to transition out of the industry and find alternative employment. Participation in the program is voluntary.

The Pathways to Exit Program provides a holistic and individualised service which includes the provision of information and referrals; assistance with housing, health and mental health issues; counselling; legal and financial information; and education, training and employment support.

The additional funding provided in 2017-18 will enable the Pathways to Exit program to provide more support to migrant sex workers. Industry figures indicate that over half of all sex workers are migrants. Additional funding will enable the employment of culturally diverse staff who can more effectively support migrant sex workers who wish to consider other employment options.

Project Respect is not a recipient of the additional \$4 million provided for Pathways to Exit from the 2017-18 State Budget.