Legislative Council

PETITION

Number: 741
Sponsored by: David Limbrick
Directed to: Minister for Police
Tabled on: 25 August 2026

Grievance:

The petition of certain citizens of the State of Victoria draws to the attention of the Legislative Council the need to ban registered sex offenders, including serial rapists and convicted paedophiles from working in either the sex industry or stripping industries.
A conviction for the following offences can result in someone being on the registered sex offender list: rape, incest, bestiality, child porn and child molestation. Since 2023, sex work has been fully decriminalised in Victoria, giving sex workers rights at work, including the right to safely report crimes to police. However, there is a loophole in the law which currently permits registered sex offenders to work in the sex industry or stripping industry in Victoria.

This presents an unacceptable risk to sex workers and sex work clients. This is not a hypothetical. There is at least one known registered sex offender currently working in Melbourne with police unable to prevent this. By expanding the current prohibition applied to child related employment to also cover sex work and stripping, this situation can be rectified and safety for both workers and clients can be improved.

The petitioners therefore request that the Legislative Council call on the Government to implement a ban on registered sex offenders working in the sex or stripping industries.

Reply:

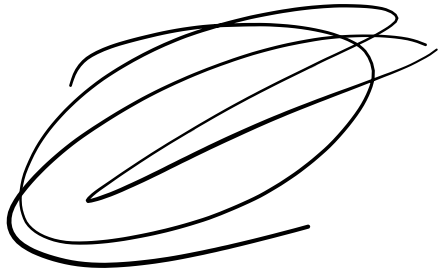
I thank the Member for bringing this petition to my attention.

The Victorian Government has decriminalised sex work to achieve better public health and human rights outcomes. Only sex work between consenting adults has been decriminalised. Criminal offences to protect children and workers from coercion and address other forms of non-consensual sex work continue to be enforced by state and federal law enforcement agencies.

Consensual sex work is now regulated just like any other industry by agencies such as WorkSafe Victoria and the Department of Health. This ensures every worker in the industry is entitled to the same treatment and protections under law, with rights to call out discrimination and unsafe workplaces or practices.

I note that section 4 of the *Sex Work Decriminalisation Act 2022* requires a review of the operation of the amendments made by that Act to be undertaken and tabled in the

Parliament. The concerns you've identified will form part of the review and that review will commence in due course.



The Hon. Paul Edbrooke MP
Minister for Police
Minister for Crime Prevention
Minister for Emergency Services
Minister for Multicultural Affairs