Sex work advocacy in Aotearoa New Zealand:

Advocates' perspectives on

effecting positive change

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ABSTRACT

Aotearoa New Zealand is in a unique position, being the only country to implement a model of full decriminalisation of sex work. This research explores the perspectives of sex work advocates on how they perceive their roles and the part they play in reducing the stigma associated with the sex industry. Given that Aotearoa New Zealand decriminalised sex work over a decade ago, the impact this legislation has had on the role of sex work advocacy was of particular interest. Strong radical feminist ideologies and moral judgement have succeeded in influencing international sex work legislation, including that of Sweden and Canada. However, this has not been the case for Aotearoa New Zealand. More robust research is needed to fully understand the effects these different legislative models have on the health and wellbeing of sex workers. This research project draws on a qualitative methodology and semi-structured interviews were conducted with three female sex work advocates, all of whom had lived experiences as sex workers prior to the law change, and have had significant involvement in sex work advocacy efforts, with upwards of seventeen years of advocacy experience each. The results of the study are largely consistent with the reviewed literature regarding the amount of time and effort involved in advocacy, as well as the importance of building relationships and alliances with key decision makers in order to facilitate positive change for sex workers. The results have also highlighted the positive effect decriminalisation has had on the lives and wellbeing of sex workers, and not the feared negative outcomes that oppositional groups had suggested. It was also noted that legislation alone is not enough to combat the stigma associated with the sex industry, but it does go a long way in protecting the basic rights of sex workers. So while legislative success has been achieved due to advocacy efforts, more effort is still required to counteract the existing and deeply entrenched myths surrounding sex work. With the literature detailing the Aotearoa New Zealand experience still being limited, this research contributes to the growing body of literature that advocates for the decriminalisation of sex work, with the hope of continuing to effect positive change for sex workers across the globe.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Chapter One

INTRODUCTION

Sex work is a highly researched and hotly debated subject. There is a wealth of literature that details varying aspects of the sex industry, including, but not limited to: the impact of regulation (Abel, 2014; Abel, Fitzgerald & Brunton, 2007; 2009; Agustín, 2008, Comte, 2014; Johnson, 2015; McDonald, 2004; Mossman, 2007; 2010); issues of sex worker health (Biradavolu, Blankenship, Jena & Dhungana, 2012; Ghose, Swendeman, George & Chowdhury, 2008; Gruskin, Pierce & Ferguson, 2014; Hubbard & Prior, 2013; Pillai, Seshu & Shivdas, 2008); stigma associated with sex work (Bowen & Bungay, 2016; Koken, 2012; Levey & Pinsky, 2015); media representation of the sex industry (Farvid & Glass, 2014); sex worker organisation (Gall, 2007; 2010, 2012; McMahon, 2014; Oselin & Weitzer, 2013); child prostitution and trafficking (Halley, Kotiswaran, Shamir & Thomas, 2006) and the influence of feminism (Kesler, 2002; Kissil & Davey, 2010; Koken, 2010; O'Neil, 2001; Sebastian, 2014; Wahab, 2003). The sex industry is as diverse as those involved in it, and thus efforts to improve outcomes for sex workers depend in part on where they fall within the spectrum and what their specific needs are (Sebastian, 2014). Positive change may then be seen differently by differing types of sex workers, and as such, efforts to effect positive change for sex workers may lead to policy and legislative reform that does more harm than good (van der Muelen, 2011). An understanding of the factors that influence these developments is essential to ensure actions taken are in the best interest of sex workers. It is important therefore, that ongoing research continues so that policy and legislation do promote the health, wellbeing and basic human rights of sex workers. This research seeks to support this ongoing work by considering the perspectives of three experienced sex work advocates on the role of sex work advocacy.

Focus of study

The aim of this exploratory research is to give voice to sex work advocates in order to understand how they perceive their roles and the part they play in reducing the stigma associated with the sex industry, particularly so in the Aotearoa New Zealand context where sex work has been decriminalised for over a decade. The focus of the research will be beneficial in that it contributes to a growing body of literature that suggests decriminalising sex work is the favoured legislative model in effecting positive change for sex workers (Armstrong, 2010; Brents & Hausbeck, 2010; Harcourt, Egger,

Donovan, 2005; Majic, 2014). It highlights the relevance of advocacy even after achieving legislative success, and supports the conceptualisation of sex work as a legitimate occupation.

My interest in this area stems from a combination of curiosity and the personal desire to understand more of the world that some of those in my life have experienced. The past two years of study has strengthened my ability to critically analyse the world in which I live, I have discovered my strong sense of social justice, and due to this research I finally have a solid understanding of feminism. I often find myself drawn to controversial topics, where I am more likely to side with the underdog, the marginalised, and those that are tossed aside by mainstream society. This research on sex work advocacy has been beneficial to me on both a personal and professional level, adding to my development as a fledgling social worker.

Rationale for the research

My interest in undertaking this exploratory study was influenced by learning about Aotearoa New Zealand's unique treatment of sex work, in that it is currently the only country in the world to have implemented a model of full decriminalisation (Abel, Fitzgerald & Healy, 2010). This differs to other countries where sex worker led organisations have had limited success in achieving positive change for sex workers (Bernstein, 2007; Bowen & Bungay, 2016; Johnson, 2015; Kissil & Davey, 2010; Powell, 2015; Sebastian, 2014) and have instead been met with fierce opposition from groups exerting strong moral judgement, often influenced by radical feminist ideologies that discount sex workers' agency and view sex work as a form of violence against women (Farley, 2004; Koken, 2010; Oselin & Weitzer, 2013; Raymond, 2004; Weitzer, 2005a, 2005b). While these positions may have good intentions, they fail to recognise the harm caused, both in relation to the further stigmatisation of those who choose to work in the industry, and by the negative outcomes of policies and legislation that seek to regulate or abolish the sex industry.

Given Aotearoa New Zealand's legislative success, I was curious as to what role that meant for sex work advocates; was their work now redundant, or had it evolved to become something else? Despite the move to decriminalise sex work, society is yet to fully embrace all aspects of the sex industry. By taking a novel approach to explore the concept

of advocacy from the perspectives of sex work advocates themselves, I hoped to gain insight into the current issues faced by sex workers.

Advocacy plays an important role in the promotion of equality, social justice and social inclusion (Dalrymple & Boylan, 2013). To understand the role of advocacy, and the power advocacy groups have to effect positive change, there must be an awareness of what positive change looks like for sex workers. This means that sex workers need to be recognised as experts in their own lives (van der Meulen, 2011). Positive change may come in various forms, but is essentially involved with the removal or minimisation of harm that sex workers may face as a result of their work in the sex industry. In other words, people who have experience in the sex industry are in the best position to provide insight into how this positive change can be achieved.

Outline of the report

This report is comprised of six chapters, an abstract, acknowledgements and appendices. Chapter two offers a review of the literature related to the advocacy of sex work. Chapter three outlines the research methodology utilised in this research project, detailing the theoretical framework and research design, participant criteria and selection, data collection and analysis, ethical considerations and research strengths and limitations. The research findings are presented in chapter four, with an analysis of the findings discussed in chapter five. Chapter six provides the conclusion to the research project and recommendations are offered for future research.

Summary

The purpose of this chapter has been to introduce the research project; sex work advocacy in Aotearoa New Zealand, and clearly identify the research question: *What are the perspectives of sex work advocates in relation to how they perceive their role, and the part they play in reducing stigma, to effect positive change, under a decriminalisation model?* The researcher's rationale for undertaking this research related to her interest in the sex industry and the role of advocacy. Finally, this chapter outlined the format of the report, indicating the key areas that each chapter will address.

The following chapter will review the literature related to sex work advocacy, including the influence of feminism, stigma and legislation.

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Chapter Two

LITERATURE REVIEW

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Introduction

Aotearoa New Zealand is the first, and currently the only country to implement a model of full decriminalisation of sex work. Since the enactment of the Prostitution Reform Act (PRA) 2003, only a limited body of literature documenting the impact this legislation has had on the lives of those involved in sex work exists (Abel, 2014; Abel & Fitzgerald, 2012; Abel, Fitzgerald & Brunton, 2007; 2009; Abel, Fitzgerald & Healy, 2010; Abel, Healy, Bennachie, & Reed, 2010; Armstrong, 2010; 2014; Harrington, 2012; Laverack & Whipple, 2010; Mossman, 2010; Warnock & Wheen, 2012). Although research suggests that decriminalisation is the legislative model most likely to improve the lives of sex workers (Armstrong, 2010; Brents & Hausbeck, 2010; Harcourt et al., 2005; Majic, 2014), it is one that other countries have been reluctant to adopt. Internationally, sex worker rights organisations seek similar reform, but are met with strong opposition (Bernstein, 2007; Bowen & Bungay, 2016; Johnson, 2015; Kissil & Davey, 2010; Powell, 2015; Sebastian, 2014).

The aim of this literature review is to provide a context beyond the current Aotearoa New Zealand experience, in which to understand the role of sex work advocacy. The following four themes of feminism, advocacy, stigma and legislation are discussed, providing a framework for this research which seeks to explore how sex work advocates perceive their role in effecting positive change for sex workers. Feminist perspectives greatly influence ones understanding of sex work (Abel & Fitzgerald, 2010; Capous-Desyllas, 2015; Sebastian, 2014; Wahab, 2003), those advocating for sex workers' rights will perceive their role differently depending on the feminist perspective they may hold. Advocacy addresses social justice issues in order to promote the welfare of those less fortunate (Amon, Wurth & Mclemore, 2015; Evans, 2005; Halley et al., 2006; Oselin & Weitzer, 2013). Understanding advocacy and its goals specific to sex work is crucial in understanding how sex work advocates may perceive their roles. Stigma can negatively affect sex workers and those close to them (Abel & Fitzgerald, 2010; Farvid & Glass, 2014; Gall, 2012; Levey & Pinksy, 2015). Gaining insight into stigma and ways to minimise it is important to recognise in sex work advocacy. And finally, legislation can also greatly impact the lives of sex workers (Gall, 2012). Advocates are required to be constantly aware of current political climates and tensions, while seeking to build relationships with decision makers in order to

achieve and maintain legal reform (Evans, 2005; Newhouse, 2010; Pillai et al., 2008; Sebastian, 2014).

Feminism

The social construction of sex work has sparked much debate within feminist discourse (Farvid & Glass, 2014; Halley et al., 2006; Kesler, 2002; Kissil & Davey, 2010; Koken, 2010; O'Neil, 2001; Rickard, 2001; Sebastian, 2014; Showden, 2011; Weatherall & Priestley, 2001; Weitzer, 2005b). Literature frequently discusses two main opposing feminist interpretations of sex work (Abel & Fitzgerald, 2010; Comte, 2014; Farvid & Glass, 2014; Kesler, 2002; Kissil & Davey, 2010; Koken, 2010; Majic, 2014; Oselin & Weitzer, 2013). One where anti-prostitution feminists or radical feminists view sex work as a form of violence against women. Sex workers, termed 'prostituted women' are seen as survivors or victims, and therefore these feminists advocate to abolish prostitution and provide services designed to 'rescue' women so they can exit the industry (Farley, 2004; Koken, 2010; Oselin & Weitzer, 2013; Raymond, 2004; Weitzer, 2005a, 2005b). The other stance frames sex work as a legitimate form of labour. Supported by pro-sex feminists or liberal feminists, sex work is understood to be a choice that can be liberating both sexually and economically (Abel, Fitzgerald & Healy, 2010; Koken, 2010; Majic, 2014), and recognises the agency, rights and self-determination of sex workers (Abel & Fitzgerald, 2010; Bell, 2009; Capous-Desyllas, 2015).

These perspectives have been powerful in shaping public opinion, policy and legislation on sex work around the world. Literature will often use Sweden and the Netherlands as classic examples of different feminist groups succeeding in influencing sex work reform (Halley et al., 2006; Harrington, 2012; McDonald, 2004; Östergren, 2004; Sebastian, 2014). While all feminists ultimately seek to improve equality and rights for women, literature describes the negative effects, unintended outcomes or deliberate goals, of strong feminist positions (Brents & Hausbeck, 2010; Halley et al., 2006; Koken, 2010). Harrington (2012) notes that despite over a century of research on prostitution, law and policy continue to control female sexual behaviour. Grant (2013) criticises the alliances formed between feminists and conservatives to exercise control over another predominantly female group, contradicting feminism's roots in anti-oppression. When feminists do not accept the sex work as work discourse, it presents a major barrier to effecting change for sex workers (Gall, 2010). Koken (2010, 2012) discusses the impact varying feminist positions have had on the wellbeing of sex workers, including how feminist influenced policy has affected the

funding of advocacy groups, particularly in the United States, where past governments have opted to only fund those who support abolitionist perspectives on sex work (Brents & Hausbeck, 2010).

Anti-prostitution feminists have a tendency to silence the voices of sex workers who believe in the sex work as work discourse (Jeffreys, 2006; 2010; Kesler, 2002; Koken, 2012). Sex work is often conflated with rape, human trafficking and child prostitution by those supporting an anti-sex work position. As Jefferys (2006) states, "theories that maintain sex work is inherently unsafe are not evidence based" (p. 114). The radical feminist perspective distorts understandings of sex work, and further stigmatises the industry (Bernstein, 2007; Ekberg, 2004, Farley, 2004; Hahn & Holzscheiter, 2013; McDonald, 2004; Weizter, 2005b, 2010). This polarisation may help to explain why some sex workers distance themselves from the feminist movement (Kesler, 2002).

The radical feminist position is not a dominant one held within Aotearoa New Zealand (Abel, 2014), which may partially explain the success of the PRA 2003. As noted by Laurie (2010), of the fifty-six submissions made by feminists only sixteen were opposed to the Prostitution Reform Bill (see also Abel, 2014). The PRA 2003 had support by both feminists and Christians who were able to make the distinction between morality and the law (Warnock & Wheen, 2012). This is rather unique considering the more typical alliances between radical feminists, religious groups and right-wing governments are usually abolitionist (Bernstein, 2007; Koken, 2010).

Advocacy

Advocacy is intended to give voice to the vulnerable and oppressed within our societies, with the aim of improving their social conditions (Brown, Livermore & Ball, 2015; Evans, 2005; Forbat & Atkinson, 2005; Independent Sector, 2012; London, 2010; Kimberlin, 2010). Sex work advocacy is concerned with campaigning for legal reform, human, civil, labour and economic rights (Gall, 2010; 2012). Advocacy encompasses a number of activities including; research and analysis; lobbying; influencing legislation and policies; alliance and relationship building; increasing civic participation; public education; building social capital; and communication (Kimberlin, 2010; Wilks, 2012). Other factors attributed to successful advocacy in the literature include: building relationships based on mutual respect, particularly with government and policymakers; skill building of advocates; maintaining a profile in the media that highlights important political issues (Canavan,

2003); ongoing commitment (Johnson, 2015; Kimberlin, 2010); securing long-term funding (Newhouse, 2010) and having strong leadership (Independent Sector, 2012). Forbat and Atkinson (2005) list a number of qualities that good advocates possess, including, empathy, optimism, patience, tenacity, as well as skills in, active listening, negotiation, report writing, and knowledge of legislation. London (2010) suggests that advocates also need to have political and communication skills, interpersonal skills and persistence. Advocates that share similar life experiences have increased credibility with their marginalised clients, and are better positioned to empower (Handy & Kassaam, 2006). Jeffreys (2006) describes how Australian sex worker led groups utilise their sex industry skills to protest against discriminatory policies. Nash (2010), however, emphasises the importance of avoiding polarisation in order to sustain a dialogue on controversial issues. But as Forbat and Atkinson (2005) suggest, to be effective, advocates require support, due to having to operate in stressful, hostile and isolating environments.

For many international sex workers' rights groups, the key issue is getting across the message that sex work is work, and that it should be respected and protected as is any other service profession (Abel & Fitzgerald, 2010; Bell, 2009). This can be challenging as most advocates operate within environments that regulate or prohibit sex work. Despite this, advocacy groups have still been able to provide support and services from a number of approaches such as, harm reduction, public health, approaches that advocate for social justice, civil, human, legal, labour and political rights, or one that is underpinned by religious beliefs (Agustín, 2010; Gall, 2010; Oselin & Weitzer, 2013). Repeated throughout the literature is the importance of sex workers being heard and the need for groups to be representative of those they serve (Capous-Desyllas, 2015; Gall, 2012; Newhouse, 2010; van der Meulen, 2011). Many organisations seeking to provide services to sex workers, particularly in the United States, view sex workers as hopeless victims in need of a voice, but they often lack representatives from the sex industry (Hahn & Holzscheiter, 2013). Scholl (2012). A self-identified Christian sex work, harm reduction activist writes, "bottom line: if you or your organization wants to impact the lives of sex workers, you must find ways to increase agency for people who are trading sex" (p. 151).

Made up of passionate, highly motivated activists, seeking legal reform and policy change due to their own lived experiences, sex worker rights organisations emerged as small grassroots organisations (Gall, 2012; Johnson, 2015; Majic, 2014). These groups however, have often encountered difficulty gaining support outside health initiatives due to the general opinion that sex work is morally questionable (Uretsky, 2015; West, 2000). Often

funded by governments to address the HIV/AIDs crisis/epidemic, sex workers have a history of being scapegoated as the carriers of disease (Pillai et al., 2008). This association of sex workers with sexually transmitted diseases is one that sex worker organisations have had to negotiate carefully, due to the risk of further stigmatising sex workers (McMahon, 2014; Mensah, 2006; Uretsky, 2015). Rickard (2001) suggests reframing sex work using an employment perspective to help shift the trend from associating sex worker issues with sexual health.

Literature notes the numerous challenges faced by sex worker organisations, including maintaining efforts to lobby and advocate for political/social change, while balancing service provision, without jeopardising their government funding (Majic, 2014). Gall (2010) notes a fragility within these groups due to the reliance on a "small handful of hyper-activists to sustain activity and representation" (p. 6) which can lead to burnout and fatigue, given growth is made difficult in environments that are hostile and dismissive. Agustín (2010) notes a similar issue, in that sex worker rights movements often experience difficulties with a lack of resources and committed activists.

Within the Aotearoa New Zealand context there has been a growing body of literature detailing the advocacy efforts of the New Zealand Prostitutes Collective (NZPC) in achieving and maintaining legal reform, highlighting the sustained social action and alliances that were needed to achieve the PRA 2003 (Abel, 2014; Abel, Fitzgerald & Healy, 2010, Laverack & Whipple, 2010). Barnett, Healy, Reed and Bennachie (2010) credit campaign and awareness building with key players, including non-governmental organisations (NGOs), politicians, the media, and academics, coupled with long term vision/planning to achieving their goal of decriminalisation. And as Amnesty International recently announced their commitment to advocating for the decriminalisation of all aspects of consensual adult sex (Amnesty International, 2014; Murphy, 2015) perhaps it is time that more groups take a similar approach. It is not so much a question of whether or not sex work is acceptable, but rather about making the conditions for sex workers safer and fairer (Ghose, 2012). Ditmore (2010) further asserts that the work of sex work advocates and activists is ongoing, given the improvement still needed in societies to ensure the lives and working conditions of sex workers are of a suitable standard. Sex workers are members of communities, even though they are often treated as outsiders, most importantly they are not sex workers 24/7. It is unfortunate that they experience disproportionate levels of violence and discrimination, which then has a domino effect on all aspects of their lives, and for this reason, advocacy is vital to ensuring positive change.

Stigma

Stigma can profoundly change the way an individual views themselves and how they are perceived by others (Mensah, 2006). Sex workers are particularly vulnerable to stigmatisation, with street-based sex workers being the most stigmatised and disadvantaged (Agustín, 2010; Harcourt et al., 2005; Hubbard & Prior, 2013; Scoular, 2010; Weitzer, 2005b). Stigma associated with sex work is connected to social class and ethnoracial inequalities (Agustín, 2010). Street-based sex workers often face a double stigma, as their world is frequently conflated with drug abuse, and they are seen as disposable members of society (Armstrong, 2010). Providing a feminist analysis of sex work, Kesler (2002) suggests that stigma is a way to keep women in line, ensuring that women are reliant on only one man for financial support, and that her body is made only available to him. Media is also recognised for its role in perpetuating stigma, as it embraces these myths about the sex industry (Farvid & Glass, 2014; Weitzer, 2010). Koken (2012) asserts that despite 'prostitution' being reframed as 'sex work' in both research and advocacy literature, the stigma still remains. Both Gall (2010) and Ghose et al. (2008) believe that viewing sex work as work lessens the internalised stigma sex workers experience and increases sex workers' self-confidence by legitimising their work.

The associations between sex work stigma and poor health and wellbeing outcomes for sex workers are emphasised throughout the literature (Farvid & Glass, 2014; Levey & Pinksy, 2015). As Abel and Fitzgerald (2010) argue, the "most serious health risks faced by sex workers arise from the stigma attached to sex work damaging sex worker emotional health" (p. 234). Sex worker groups may then aim to eliminate stigma, due to its detrimental effects, by challenging the perceptions others have of sex work, and providing alternative ways to understand the industry (Harrington, 2012; Oselin & Weitzer, 2013). Efforts to reduce stigma are often discussed, such as: ensuring community engagement; alliance building; inclusion of sex workers to increase pride, self-esteem, and empowerment; resilience building; giving sex workers a space to share their stories; raising public awareness; and increased advocacy (Biradavolu et al., 2012; Burnes, Long & Schept, 2012; Ghose et al., 2008; Majic, 2014; Mastin, Murphy, Riplinger & Ngugi., 2015; Scholl, 2012). Sex workers themselves may employ multiple techniques in which to manage stigma, such as reframing the narrative, normalisation or concealment. Sex workers are also known to distance themselves from each other in an attempt to avoid stigma (Levey & Pinksy, 2015).

Legislation has also been attributed to affecting sex work stigma. Decriminalisation is often recommended to reduce stigma (Östergren, 2004; van der Meulen, 2011), however, it may only serve to symbolically remove some of the stigma (Armstrong, 2010). Countries that criminalise sex work, or heavily regulate it, maintain and reinforce the stigma and discrimination of sex workers (Gall, 2012, Gruskin et al., 2014; Hubbard & Prior, 2013). This can then have further implications for the health and wellbeing of sex workers and their ability to access healthcare and social services (Burnes et al., 2012; Gruskin et al., 2014; van der Muleun, 2011). But as Mossman (2010) states, despite the improvements made to the lives of sex workers in Aotearoa New Zealand with the implementation of the PRA 2003, it is widely acknowledged that to reduce the stigma associated with sex work is a long-term process (see also Biradavolu et al., 2012; Evans, 2005), and legislation alone cannot be relied upon to eradicate it (Agustín, 2010). With reference to the Aotearoa New Zealand context, Warnock and Wheen (2012) further state that "the restrictions on sex work by local authorities reflect a continuing stigmatization" (p. 424).

Legislation

Debates on sex work legislation can be immensely polarising (Johnson, 2015). Sex work literature provides an analysis of three main legislative models that are in use across the world, those being: criminalisation, legalisation and decriminalisation. Each differing in the impact they have on the lives of sex workers (Abel, 2014; Abel & Fitzgerald, 2012; Abel, Fitzgerald & Brunton, 2007; 2009; Abel, Fitzgerald & Healy, 2010; Abel, Healy, Bennachie, & Reed, 2010; Agustín, 2008, 2010; Bruckert, 2015; Comte, 2014; Farley, 2004; Farvid & Glass, 2014; Gruskin et al., 2014; Halley et al., 2006; Harcourt et al., 2005; Harrington, 2012; Hubbard & Prior, 2013; Koken, 2010; McDonald, 2004; Mossman, 2007; 2010; Scholl, 2012; Scoular, 2010; Sebastian, 2014; Showden, 2011; Weitzer, 2010, West, 2000).

Many countries have undergone prostitution law reform since the 1970s (Agustín, 2010), each taking a different approach to the moral and legal regulation of sex work, reflective of differing political and cultural perspectives (Gall, 2012). There are strong connections between the legislative models and feminist ideologies. Sweden adopted a model of criminalisation in 1999 that criminally punishes the activities of the clients, and frames sex workers as victims (Abel, 2014; Comte, 2014). A similar approach has been more recently adopted by Canada (Bruckert, 2015; Johnson, 2015). Also known as the Nordic model, it is underpinned by a radical feminist ideology, in which its main aim is to end demand (McDonald, 2004; Scholl, 2012), and often conflates voluntary sex work with sex trafficking

(Gruskin et al., 2014). This abolitionist or prohibitionist stance has been criticised for being paternalistic, causing further marginalisation and stigmatisation of sex workers. Instead of eradicating prostitution, it forces sex work underground, leading to exploitative and unsafe working conditions, and sex workers being left without any legal protection (Bruckert, 2015; Grant, 2013; Gruskin et al., 2014; Halley et al., 2006; Johnson, 2015; Koken, 2010).

Legalisation seeks to regulate sex work, usually through licensing or registration, compulsory health checks, police checks and drug tests (Benoit & Shumka, 2015). Governments benefit from this model through taxation (Gruskin et al., 2014; Scholl, 2012; West, 2000), and maintain control of the conditions in which sex workers may work. Sex workers may see some benefit in accessing welfare entitlements and increased labour rights, and working conditions may improve for a small section of sex workers (Scoular, 2010). However, this model, in which the Netherlands is a classic example, has been criticised due to excessive regulation which impacts on migrant sex workers, and has been accused of possibly increasing sex trafficking (Halley et al., 2006).

Decriminalisation removes the criminal laws relating to prostitution (Armstrong, 2010; Hubbard & Prior, 2013; Scholl, 2012). This model is supported by sex worker rights organisations, researchers, activists, liberal feminists, and public health professionals, as research has shown it to be most beneficial to the health, wellbeing and safety of sex workers, fostering harm reduction and protecting sex workers' human rights (Abel, Fitzgerald, Healy, 2010; Armstrong, 2010; Comte, 2014; Kim & Alliance, 2015; Koken, 2010; McMahon, 2014; Scholl, 2012; Showden, 2011; van der Meulen, 2011; Weatherall & Priestley, 2001; Weitzer, 2010). Advocates pushing for decriminalisation are met with strong opposition by those that believe decriminalisation or legalisation will encourage the growth of the sex industry and trafficking, and will not improve the lives of sex workers (Farley, 2004; Raymond, 2004; Sebastian, 2014).

Issues with morality and law, regarding sex work are noted in the literature, Bell (2009) stating, "morality is objective and society's opinion on what is 'right' and 'wrong' is constantly shifting. Morality provides no sound basis for law, as people governed by laws cannot possibly all share the same moral beliefs" (p. 1). Weitzer (2010) credits media reporting and intense lobbying by prohibitionist advocacy groups for the anti-prostitution preference in United States and European governments. Both Weitzer (2010) and Abel (2014) argue that prostitution policies are being blindly influenced by morality and dogma, ignoring the robust scientific research proving that decriminalisation improves the lives of

sex workers. Decriminalisation does not make any moral judgement on prostitution, but simply allows sex workers the same rights as any other worker (Abel & Fitzgerald, 2010; Armstrong, 2010; Kim & Alliance, 2015; Warnock & Wheen, 2012). However, there is also a recognition that decriminalisation on its own cannot prevent sex workers from experiencing discrimination, violence and stigma (Armstrong, 2010; Koken, 2010; Weitzer, 2010).

Conclusion

By considering the influence, the four themes: feminism, advocacy, stigma and legislation, have on sex work advocacy, this literature review informs the research question: *What are the perspectives of sex work advocates in relation to how they perceive their role, and the part the play in reducing stigma, to effect positive change, under a decriminalisation model?* This review has provided a deeper understanding of the challenges still faced by those involved in the industry, highlighting also, the considerable amount of debate, often clouded by opposing ideologies, on how best to serve this diverse yet marginalised population. Furthermore, the literature has shaped the Interview Schedule (Appendix C), in which questions relating to the advocates' personal experiences, successful advocacy, stigma, decriminalisation, challenges and future aspirations have been asked in order to gain their views. Gaining the perspectives from sex work advocates as proposed in this research will add to the existing knowledge on the sex work industry, and more specifically, will build on the understanding of how advocacy groups can influence public policy, legislative reform and social attitudes, as more research is needed to fully understand the implications for sex work advocacy in an environment of decriminalisation.

In the next chapter, the methodology used will be explained, along with the theories that have informed this research.

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Chapter Three

METHODOLOGY

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Introduction

This chapter discusses the theory and research methodology selected to consider the research question:

> *What are the perspectives of sex work advocates in relation to how they perceive their role, and the part they play in reducing stigma, to effect positive change, under a decriminalisation model?*

A qualitative descriptive research methodology, influenced by both social constructionist and feminist philosophies is employed. In-depth semi structured interviews with three sex work advocates produced detail-rich data. Relevant ideas and themes that emerged from the participants' understandings of sex work advocacy were identified using thematic analysis. This chapter concludes by discussing key ethical considerations, and the strengths and limitations of the research.

Theoretical framework and research design

The purpose of this research was to seek the perspectives of sex work advocates in relation to how they perceived their roles and the part they played in reducing the stigma associated with sex work. Thus a qualitative descriptive methodology was chosen to offer a broad summary of the participants' views in everyday language (Sandelowski, 2000). Qualitative descriptive studies are described as an accurate accounting of events, in which the researcher stays close to the participants' words and stories when analysing the data (Sandelowski, 2000). Furthermore, qualitative research is used to gain insight into the meaning the participants attribute to their lived experiences, the qualitative research process is concerned with acquiring meaning from the data gathered (Creswell, Shope, Plano Clark, & Green, 2006). Semi-structured interviews were chosen as the method for data collection. Interviews are a purposeful conversation (Burgess, 1984, Woods, 2011) in which detail-rich information can be gathered from the participants' own experiences, histories and perspectives (Mack, Woodsong, Macqueen, Guest & Namey, 2005). By adopting a semi-structured approach more flexibility is afforded to the researcher, allowing them the opportunity to ask spontaneous questions, as well as remaining partially standardised, which increases data reliability (Woods, 2011).

As a student researcher I have sought to describe the sex work advocates' experiences, mindful that no description is free from interpretation (Sandelowski, 2000). Both feminist and social constructionist philosophies inform this qualitative descriptive methodology. By applying a social constructionist approach to this research, participants are given a voice, and there is an understanding that all knowledge is socially constructed (Costantino, 2008). Sex work is socially constructed in a variety of ways, viewed as a disease carrying, deviant behaviour, labelled a crime, a sin, or an abuse, or less negatively, it may be seen to simply be a form of labour (Levey & Pinksy, 2015; Weatherall & Priestley, 2001). Understanding how advocates construct sex work therefore provides insight to the perceptions of their advocacy role. As a researcher I also acknowledge the influence my own values have on the constructed knowledge (Costantino, 2008). A feminist lens provides a means to interpret and challenge oppressive structures and ideologies that may impact on sex work advocacy, with the hope of encouraging empowerment (Childers, Rhee & Daza, 2013).

Participant criteria and selection

Initial contact was made through the national coordinator of a national organisation supporting sex workers to determine whether they would be open to being part of this research. [The organisation's] role is to advocate for the human rights, health and wellbeing of all sex workers. After [the organisation] signalled their interest in participating, a formal invitation to participate, explaining the research was prepared and sent via email to the national coordinator of [the organisation] (Appendix A). Together with an information sheet (Appendix B) and interview schedule (Appendix C) which were then distributed via the organisation to potential participants. To be eligible participants needed to be: a member of [the organisation]; be actively involved in a sex work advocacy role; not be currently working as a sex worker; reside in Aotearoa New Zealand; have access to a computer with internet access and Skype; be able to participate in an interview conducted in English. The use of purposive sampling ensured that participants had enough experience in sex work advocacy to provide information-rich data to reasonably meet the needs of this study (Sandelowski, 2000). A sample size of three participants was sought to collect sufficient data for the purpose of a small research project in order to partially fulfil the requirements of a Master of Applied Social Work.

Data collection

Skype interviews were conducted by the researcher with the three individual participants, in which written informed consent was gained prior. The interviews followed a semi-structured format involving a series of questions that were divided into sex categories, including: personal experience, successful advocacy, stigma, decriminalisation, challenges, and future aspirations. These categories were informed by the literature review and were intended to elicit responses that would help answer the main research question. Each in-depth interview lasted for approximately an hour. Participants were given a copy of the interview schedule prior to the interview which allowed them to familiarise themselves with the questions and prepare for the interview, it also served to strengthen participant consent and provided the novice researcher prompts to use throughout the interviews.

The consent form (Appendix D) was emailed to each of the participants to print, sign, scan and email back. A date and time for the interview was mutually agreed upon. Prior to the commencement of the interview the process was further explained, with the assurance that the interview could be stopped at any time and the participant could withdraw. The interviews were recorded digitally through the computer, with the participants' permission and then transcribed by the researcher. The transcriptions were sent to the participants, along with an Authority for the Release of Transcript Form (Appendix E) to check for accuracy and to edit if necessary. Reviewed and edited transcriptions were returned to the researcher along with a signed release form.

Data analysis

Thematic analysis (Braun & Clarke, 2006; 2014) was utilised to analyse the data obtained from the interviews. This approach allowed the researcher to consider emerging themes from within the transcripts and to reflect on the perspectives of the participants.

Analysis began by listening and transcribing the recorded interviews, the researcher became familiarised with the data through the transcribing of each interview. Further familiarisation was achieved by reading and rereading the transcribed interviews, taking notes of relevant words, phrases, sections throughout the process. Multiple concepts that repeated throughout the data were categorised and divided into four main overarching themes, which were then reworked to form the basis of the results chapter.

Ethical considerations

As part of the research process it is important for the researcher to consider any potential ethical issues that may arise during the research process. This research has been guided by the Massey University Human Ethics Committee's (MUHEC) procedures to ensure that the research was conducted in a responsible and ethical manner. A Human Ethics Application (Appendix F) was reviewed by senior Massey University lecturers, and the research project was considered to be of low risk. A Low Risk Notification (Appendix G), Screening questionnaire (Appendix H) and Research procedure flow chart (Appendix J) were subsequently submitted to the MUHEC for approval. Participant selection processes were initiated upon receipt of the Low Risk Notification accepted on the 17th June 2015 (Appendix I). The key ethical considerations and how they were managed are discussed in the following paragraphs.

Informed and voluntary consent

Participants were fully informed of the aims of the research project, what was expected of them and their rights, this process emphasised that participation in the research was voluntary. Participants were asked to sign a consent form, ensuring that informed consent was received.

Confidentiality and anonymity

Participant anonymity could not be ensured once they disclosed their names and had been interviewed. In order to maintain participants' confidentiality throughout the research report, their identity has been protected by the removal of any personal identifiers, including their names, names of organisations and places. The organisation in which the participants were members of, is not directly named in the research and is referred to as, [the organisation], when required. Participants were advised that given the size of Aotearoa New Zealand and nature of the organisation's work within the sex work communities, their organisation may still be recognisable. Each participant was given the opportunity to review and amend their interview transcript with the Release of Transcript form granting permission for their transcript to be analysed and direct extracts of this to be included in the report. All project data remains securely stored and protected from access by unauthorised persons, and will be appropriately destroyed following grading of this report.

Risk of harm

Participants were selected from a professional body to manage and minimise the potential risk of harm occurring as a result of the interview process. Prior to the interview commencing, participants were advised of their right to stop the interview or refuse to answer a question should they experience any discomfort.

Sharing of research results

Participants are to receive a summary of research findings upon finalisation of the research report, and will be advised of how to access the full report. It is believed that the opportunity for participants to voice their views, reflect on their roles as advocates and read the research findings will be of benefit to the participants. Research findings may also be of benefit to other organisations interested in sex work advocacy.

Research strengths limitations

The study was limited by the small sample size, and did not allow for extensive research, therefore it cannot be generalised to a larger population. A lack of male input, as only females were interviewed, may have meant that a gender bias is also present within the data.

As this study had to meet the requirements for a Low Risk Notification it restricted the inclusion of current sex workers, as they might be deemed a vulnerable population. Research is frequently criticised for being done on sex workers, rather than with them, and as such can contribute to the stereotyping and stigmatisation of sex workers (Goodyear & Auger, 2013; Harrington, 2012; Love, Durisin & van der Meulen; 2013; Wahab, Anderson-Nathe, & Gringeri, 2015; Weatherall & Priestley, 2001; Weitzer, 2005b). While the voice of active sex workers may have been muted, all participants did have experience as sex workers previously. They experienced life as a sex worker prior to the legislative change, which is also likely to contribute to their perspectives on sex work advocacy.

However, given these limitations, the research was welcomed by the participants. All the participants were eager to take part, their cooperation and interest is a positive reflection on the design and implementation of the research. Their personal experiences working as sex workers prior to the law change, along with their extensive experience in sex work advocacy, particularly in their involvement in the lead up to the PRA 2003 and their

continued efforts in the decade since, was an invaluable source of information from which to understand the role of sex work advocacy.

Conclusion

This chapter has outlined and provided explanation on the descriptive qualitative methodology and underlying social constructionist and feminist philosophies employed for this research project. Detail has been provided on participant recruitment, data collection, and data analysis. Ethical considerations were discussed, followed by the strengths and limitations of the research. Chapter four will present the findings from of the interview data.

RESULTS

Introduction

This research explores how sex work advocates perceive their role, with a particular focus on how they work to reduce the stigma associated with sex work and operate within a decriminalised environment. In-depth interviews with three participants explored their views, understandings and experiences of sex work advocacy within an Aotearoa New Zealand context. Thematic analysis has been employed to identify four overarching themes: the role of sex work advocacy; influencing personal characteristics; perceptions of sex work; and the regulation of sex work.

To protect the identities of each of the participants, they are referred to as Participant 1, Participant 2 and Participant 3. All three were women that had lived experiences as sex workers before the law change, and all have had significant involvement with [the organisation], upwards of 17 years.

Role of sex work advocacy

Participants described their role as a sex work advocates in a variety of ways. They noted their roles were expansive, covering a lot of different responsibilities. All three had been involved with the organisation for a long period of time and spoke of how their role had evolved over the years, they all began as volunteers. Multiple interventions, strategies and responsibilities were discussed throughout the participants' interviews, which has resulted in the identification of a further four sub-themes: obtaining sex worker input; supporting sex workers; ensuring sex workers rights are upheld; and ongoing engagement with outsiders.

Obtaining sex worker input

The participants strongly identified the organisation as a group of peers. Although the participants were no longer working in the industry as sex workers, they remained very much in touch with all types of sex workers. They also spoke of an awareness that as an organisation they must be representative of the communities they served.

As the sex worker population is diverse, meeting the needs of all sex workers can be challenging. Participants noted that obtaining consensus across the board is not always achievable, even with a significant amount of group discussion, debating and planning.

Gaining sex worker input during research was also discussed, research was identified as being important to support and build evidence around how various policies and other factors impact on the lives of sex workers. Participants were keen to see more research undertaken, recognising that while Aotearoa New Zealand research has included the voice of sex workers, there was also criticism that research is often carried out without the input of sex workers.

> *...I find that the only people who can talk about what we go through—what we've been through, is ourselves. It's not some scientists or, no disrespect to researchers, but it's gotta be people who have lived those experiences and I find that at times when we've been at different forums, it's like we've become the object...that's not what it's about. It's about a partnership, working and walking alongside sex worker activists and hearing what we've got to say because we lived those experiences so we know what we're talking about.* (Participant 2)

Supporting sex workers

A huge part of sex work advocacy involves supporting sex workers. Support was discussed in a variety of shapes and sizes. Outreach efforts were mentioned, with reference more to the street-based sex worker population:

> *[Street-based sex workers] are a small minority but they are also some of the higher needs people that we work with. So you get people working in houses and apartments who are doing it part time, who are students, who have goals, who are working very professionally. But apart from coming in to pick up their supplies from us we don't have so much to do with them because they don't need us.* (Participant 1)

Another group seen to have specific needs that required specialised support were the migrant sex worker communities. While the current legislation in Aotearoa New Zealand is not supportive of migrant sex workers, the participants agreed that this did not disqualify them from the organisation's support:

> *...technically they're not supposed to unless they've got a permanent residency, or a New Zealand citizen. But we don't dob them in. We're not the sex police, we just want*

them to do things safely, so we develop our literature into their languages and connect with them in other ways. (Participant 1)

Providing sex workers with a space to share their stories, use resources or access support networks was seen to be integral to supporting sex workers. Education around a number of sex work issues was seen as part of their advocacy role. Ensuring that sex workers are fully informed on all aspects of the sex industry, from having an understanding of the basics of sex work, to having an understanding of policies and law that may affect them. Safety, whether that meant to be safe in a sexual health context or to be safe from violence was also discussed. Participants highlighted the provision of a variety of services offered to empower sex workers. This point is illustrated by Participant 1: *"I like to think that we can help them become more empowered and do whatever they want to do. Whether that be staying, leaving, doing whatever, just with our support."*

Ensuring sex worker rights are upheld

The participants' maintained that sex workers should be afforded the same rights as everyone else, including access to services and entitlements. The following remarks by Participant 2 express this view:

> *...advocacy to me is about standing up for the rights of the people that you represent...the human rights of sex workers. Making sure that we have...labour rights, also that we have access to healthcare, we can access ACC, we can make complaints to the police...* (Participant 2)

While participants felt it was necessary to be able to speak out freely to address the injustices sex workers may face, there was also a mindfulness around speaking on behalf of groups they themselves did not identify with, as noted by Participant 3: *"...it's uncomfortable for me to talk about, say, migrant sex workers, because I'm obviously not of that background, but...it doesn't mean to say that you can't advocate for unfair policy..."*

Participants held differing opinions on the ongoing effort to ensure the rights of sex workers are upheld. Participant 1 felt that there was not *"so much of a fight anymore"* stating that their stories and the history of the organisation was well documented, preserving the legacy of the fight for the decriminalisation. Whereas Participant 2 expressed concern that the struggle may be forgotten.

Ongoing engagement with outsiders

Participants spoke about building and maintaining relationships with key people or groups, particularly those in positions to make decisions and educating others about what impacts on the lives of sex workers.

Involvement with the media was considered to be a necessary part of their roles, which often meant providing an alternative understanding to the world of sex work. Dealings with the media were also seen to be challenging. Participant 3 admitted to the weight felt, when having to maintain control of things said in the media:

> *...I used to see something tiny. Like a couple of lines in the newspaper and my heart would sink...it might be some joke at the expense of a sex worker in Timbuktu, and there would be the one media angle on it...and they'd want opinions. So sometimes things would go off the wall in the sense that control was being lost and I had to try and get it back.*

Participants further recognised that building relationships takes time, and strategically built alliances with groups and individuals that had the power to facilitate change and that understood the complexities in sex workers' lives:

> *...we developed liaisons with key police people, and we like working with quite high ranking police officers that can actually make decisions. A lot of the younger ones especially, won't work in grey areas. We work best with police that work in grey areas.* (Participant 1)

Negotiating relationships with groups that held opposing views were described as challenging at times, and required careful management to ensure the best possible outcomes for sex workers. This meant that the advocates sometimes sought to ease tensions and repair relationships. There was some mention regarding funding, including the concerns participants had over funding constraints and the possibility of losing funding, one participant stating that their contract coincided with elections, further indicating the need for strong relationships with political parties and those in parliament.

Influencing personal characteristics

Throughout the interviews the personal qualities of the participants were explored. These attributes may have come from their personal experiences or underlying worldviews. They were all peers in the sense that they each had lived experience of having previously been a sex worker. These experiences shared both similarities and differences, although they were different in their own ways they were united by their passion to advocate for the rights of sex workers. The following four sub-themes address the influences that personally effect the participants' advocacy efforts: lived experience as a sex worker; feminism; values; and role models.

Lived experience as a sex worker

All three participants discussed their own personal histories as a sex worker, and all three experienced working in a criminalised environment. Participant 2 articulating the relevance of her lived experience: *"Because I've worked in the sex industry under a criminalised environment, it was very personal to me. My experiences about the injustices that we—that you had, as a sex worker back in those days."* The fact that they were all peers gave them a credibility as advocates within their community. Participant 3 stating: "*...it's really important to have been a sex worker, or to still be a sex worker. I think that's absolutely, really important."*

The recognition of their past involvement in the sex industry highlighted the participants' requirement to 'out' themselves. This visibility, while seen as a strength, was also a vulnerability of sorts, and as such hinders the involvement of other potential advocates:

> *...being an activist in Aotearoa, a sex worker activist...you've got to be public, you've gotta put your face out there in the media and there's not a lot of people in our [organisation] that are willing to come out...they're not ready to come out or they're too scared to come out.* (Participant 2)

Having the lived experience of a sex worker to draw from was of great benefit, but as Participant 3 noted, the use of personal stories could detract from the main issues that need advocating for:

> *...when I started advocating, I didn't want to talk to my personal stuff. I just wanted to talk to the issues, and I found that really useful because I didn't think it was fair to frame up my story because I thought that would just get told and retold as the story.*

> *And that creates a kind of a...ghastly figurehead culture. ...I don't like that style of advocacy; I like ideas being advocated.*

Feminism

As well as identifying as sex workers, all identified as feminists. Participants were also wary of the negative and oppositional positions other feminists took in regards to sex work. Participants expressed their feelings of unease with the term at times. For example, Participant 3 commented: "*...I'm uncomfortable with the feminist response at the extreme end towards sex work, but I'd be more uncomfortable—I'd be uncomfortable not to identify as a feminist too.*"

The division within feminism was spoken about throughout the interviews, with the most extreme feminist view being that sex work is a form of violence against women. None of the participants identified with the anti-sex work feminist's views, as their own experiences were much different to the ones those feminists portrayed. Participants were of the opinion that these feminists were dangerous and disrespectful. For example, Participant 3 commented:

> *It's not hearing what sex workers are saying. ...Their worldview of what the conditions should be for women to have sex under etcetera. And to put it all on the sex worker, to say that, sex workers are really undermining equality for women, it's a bit rich.*

Participants also spoke of the unfair double standard and societal norms, where men are afforded different treatment to their female counterparts.

Values

Aside from their lived experiences as sex workers and feminist perspectives, there were a number of other factors that contributed to how they perceived their role as an advocate. Participant 2 mentioned that her ethnicity influences her advocacy as well as her Christian faith:

> *I'm a Christian sex worker too, so for me when I've done my activism...and spoken to Christians...they've been the biggest hypocrites. ...you can't be angry with the things that they say about sex workers...you've got to have a humility and diplomacy around getting the message across and educating them about what it is like for us, sex workers.*

During the course of the interviews there was a sense that all the participants were driven by a strong sense of social justice. As Participant 3 clearly highlights:

> *I didn't arrive at sex worker politics uneducated about social justice issues. I was certainly very conscious. I came out of the anti-apartheid era and lots of things, the feminist, early feminist, the 1960s-70s and that. I was a kid and influenced by those mighty social justice movements...that was really important to see people rising up and speaking for change.*

Participant 1 spoke of a love of people and diversity, citing love as an integral part of her advocacy work: "*...I would like to think that I bring love into it because that's very important to me."*

Passion for the work drove the participants' commitment to their roles, but there were concerns expressed over who would continue to advocate for sex workers' rights when they grew old or retired. Participants indicated that individuals with similar qualities would be needed to provide continued strong leadership.

Role models

Also integral to shaping the advocates own advocacy efforts, were the influence of good mentors or aspirational activists. All participants showed a mutual respect for one another and their peers. The youngest of the group noted the support she had been given over the years: "*...reflecting on my own activism, I've had really good mentors..."* (Participant 2)

Perceptions of sex work

All participants were acutely aware of the different perceptions that both outsiders and those within the industry have of sex work and sex workers. Common perceptions of sex work are largely negative, but there is something about the hidden world of sex work that ignites curiosity among the general public. Throughout the interviews participants shared their views regarding these perceptions, and these have been divided into the five following sub-themes: sex work myths; stigma; discrimination and exploitation; sex work as work; and the construction of an ideal world.

Sex work myths

Participants shared stories relating to how oppositional groups would paint a very negative and inaccurate view of sex work in an attempt to derail efforts to include and accept sex workers within society. These groups were often described as religious organisations, and as Participant 1 described the information that they fed to the media *"was actually very incorrect and it's not easy to counteract it when it gets front page attention."*

A popular tactic employed by anti-sex work groups is to conflate trafficking with sex work. Participants were of the opinion that Aotearoa New Zealand did not have problems with trafficking, and that individuals would come to Aotearoa and work as sex workers by choice, not by force. Participant 1 stated: *"You'll still get people putting out into our media that there's a lot of trafficking, trafficking into New Zealand, well there isn't. People come here knowing what they're going to be doing."*

Stigma

Because of the negative perceptions that persist around the sex industry, sex workers are constantly having to manage the associated shame and stigma. This may result in those associated with the sex industry to keep their involvement a secret, as Participant 1 remarked: *"We've had people in paid positions here in this office who don't tell people that they work here. Because there would be this assumption, why would you want to work there, unless you were one, or had been one."* Participants also spoke of both their personal experiences in dealing with stigma and seeing the effect it had on others. Participant 1 expressing her experiences by saying: *"...I never felt that stigma, but most people do. ...my two daughters did...I thought of stopping, but I felt that I'd still be the person that had. ...but I see it effects other people."*

Participant 3 talked of how some sex workers and brothel operators use distancing as a technique to separate themselves from what they perceive to be a lower class of sex work. Particularly to differentiate themselves from those with less fortunate upbringings and those with drug dependency issues. She would challenge these perceptions held by others, believing that, *"there's no one right face of sex work..."*

Challenging others on their preconceived ideas about sex work was seen by the participants as one of the ways they worked to reduce stigma. All of the participants agreed that reducing stigma required a lot of hard work, and involved speaking out. Participant 3 noted Amnesty International's recent move to recognise sex worker rights, and the influence that then has on others: *"It's that kind of thing and it really stops people in*

their tracks and makes them realise that perhaps they don't even think about sex workers other than in the context of a joke at the sex worker expense."

Discrimination and exploitation

Occupational discrimination was repeatedly discussed by the participants. As Participant 2 expressed by stating: "*...I know in my experience here that people have been discriminated because they were a former sex worker."* Participants would encourage sex workers not to share their sex work histories with prospective non-sex industry employers, as it would no doubt lower their chances of successful employment. They were also wary of what statutory organisations recorded in client files, discussing the impact it could have on people's lives, particularly with jobs that required registration, such as social work, counselling or teaching.

The participants also shared their annoyances with injustices such as online advertising websites or landlords exploiting and overcharging sex workers, due to the perception that sex workers are wealthy and can afford to pay higher rates for services and items. But as Participant 1 stated: "*...the reality is a lot of them [sex workers] are very poor."*

Sex work as work

Ideally the participants would prefer society to view sex work as a legitimate form of labour, which would see more acceptance of sex workers, recognising both the unique skill set they possess, and the richness their diversity brings to our society. Participant 1 expressed this point by saying:

> *...seeing sex work as work. This is the work that the person does and that should be understood...some say it's no different from any other sort of work...some say it's very different...but the fact is you're getting paid to provide a service, so therefore it is work.*

The construction of an ideal world

When questioned about what an ideal world for sex workers would look like, participants cited acceptance, equality and one without stigma.

> *I think sex workers who are able to govern their own sex work is the ideal, and are free from impediments, related...to stigma and discrimination. ...But we have to get the anti-discrimination legislation through. And of course legislation isn't just the thing either, it's the attitudes, the hearts, the minds as people say.* (Participant 3)

The regulation of sex work

Given the focus on understanding the role of sex work advocacy within Aotearoa New Zealand context, in which sex work has been decriminalised since the enactment of the PRA 2003, legislation and regulation of sex work was heavily discussed throughout the interviews. Placing restrictions on sex work has massive implications for sex workers and can infringe on their basic human rights. The following two sub-themes provide an overview on the regulation of sex work: decriminalisation; and Aotearoa New Zealand's influence.

Decriminalisation

Aotearoa New Zealand has had a model of decriminalisation for over a decade. To achieve this legislative change, participants spoke of the sacrifices and compromises that had to be negotiated in order to move forward. Participant 3 highlighted the importance of timing and knowing the climate needed for change, stating that in Aotearoa New Zealand's case: "*...we kind of never dropped the ball around decriminalisation, we kept at it... It took us 15 years, but some of these groups have been at it for forty years, and haven't made any traction.*" Referring to the international sex workers' rights groups that have tirelessly fought for the decriminalisation of sex work with little success.

When asked about the impact of decriminalisation the participants shared a variety of views. These included the fact that sex work activities were no longer considered a crime, and that sex workers were now afforded more rights and protections within the law. Participants also spoke of there being more acceptance and tolerance of sex workers. Decriminalisation, as described by the participants, saw an increase in collaboration and cooperation between sex worker organisations, community agencies, local councils and the police.

Participant 3 stated that decriminalisation also had an impact on the attitudes of sex workers themselves:

> *...I am so pleased everyday I see sex workers with such a strong sense of entitlement. ...decriminalisation has given sex workers that idea that inclusion in society is...absolutely their right and that people cannot get away with treating them badly.*

However, given that the participants viewed decriminalisation as the most preferred legislative model to ensure the rights of sex workers are protected, they also noted that

there was still room for improvement. As Participant 3 remarked: "*…in our legislation we haven't got everything that we would like. I am concerned that there are still little gnarly bits inside of that legislation…"* Throughout the interviews the participants referenced issues within the legislation with regards to mandatory condom use, migrant sex workers, and occupation discrimination, indicating that these were areas of future focus.

All participants were critical of movements to introduce policy that negatively affected the lives of sex workers, or attempts to regulate sex work, often citing these as current challenges within their advocacy work. Regulation and restriction tended to focus on street-based sex workers or individuals working from home.

With regard to the future of Aotearoa New Zealand's sex work regulation, Participant 1, influenced by a harm reduction view, did not believe that there was any risk of the legislation reverting back:

> *…we've kept HIV and AIDS out of the sex industry… I don't think any government would want to let go of that. I mean it cost far, far, far more treating people with HIV and AIDS then the little amount they throw our way.*

Participant 2 felt differently, believing that there is an ongoing need to fight for sex workers to be included in society: "*…you think you can lie down but you can't, you've just got to keep, keep going, because there's always groups in society who always sort of think that we are an outcast or there's something wrong with us."*

Aotearoa New Zealand's influence

Throughout the interviews there was a sense of pride due to Aotearoa New Zealand's progressive sex worker legislation when compared to other countries. As Participant 2 highlighted by saying: "*…we've got the best model in the world. And I'm not trying to brag about it or anything but it took a long time to build—to fight for that."*

Sex work advocates in other countries have been looking to see how they too might be able to push for a similar model. Particularly so, given that it has not produced any of the feared outcomes. This however, is proving to be a difficult task, and the participants feel deeply for their fellow international advocates:

> *…when I've talked to sex worker activists in other parts of the world, it's really frustrating and my heart really goes out to them because there's a lot of push for the*

Swedish model...particularly with the feminists who are anti decriminalisation...the force of what they have to fight against...it's huge...it's horrible, to be honest. (Participant 2)

Conclusion

Participant's views on their roles as sex work advocates and what this means in the context of decriminalisation have been outlined in this chapter. Their responses have highlighted how important advocacy efforts are in order to establish and maintain sex worker rights, even after progressive legislative change. Chapter 6 provides an analysis and discussion of this data in relation to themes in the literature.

Chapter Five

DISCUSSION

Introduction

This discussion chapter analyses the perspectives of the three interviewed participants, connections are made to the current research and the gathered data is positioned within the reviewed body of literature. A discussion is provided, exploring the views these sex work advocates have of their roles and how they work towards reducing the stigma associated with the sex industry, in order to effect positive change for sex workers operating within a decriminalised environment.

The results have highlighted the importance of relationships and alliances, timing, perseverance and the abilities of the advocates to negotiate conversations around a controversial and polarising topic. Each of the participants' narratives constructed sex work as work, and they understood their role to be one which supported sex workers in whatever way that they needed it, including efforts to see that all sex workers are afforded the same rights as any other member of society. Focus on the Aotearoa New Zealand context reveals that legislation alone is not enough to prevent issues arising from stigma and discrimination. These results are supportive of conclusions drawn from the relevant literature.

This chapter is structured using the same themes from the previous chapter, those being: the role of sex work advocacy; influencing personal characteristics; perceptions of sex work; and the regulation of sex work. These are indirectly connected to the four themes: feminism; advocacy; stigma; and legislation, that were identified when reviewing the literature.

The role of sex work advocacy

Advocacy is concerned with the promotion of equality, social inclusion and social justice, and both advocates and advocacy can take many forms to achieve these basic rights (Forbat & Atkinson, 2005). Sex workers began to self-organise in order to pursue rights issues and the injustices they faced worldwide, fighting for decriminalisation, de-stigmatisation, public awareness, social provisions and protection from violence (Bernstein, 2007; Gall, 2012). These groups have long sought to influence public opinion, political parties and government (Gall, 2010). The participants' narratives revealed a similar

experience, in which the strong and relentless influence of sex work advocates resulted in Aotearoa New Zealand having decriminalised sex work over a decade ago (Armstrong, 2010).

Each of the participants spoke of their advocacy efforts in the lead up to the PRA 2003, and located their commitments to advocacy and social justice in a range of longstanding engagements in social activism, community organising, and in their own identification as sex workers. Their roles were understood to be complex and involved a lot of hard work. The participants identified several areas that they thought were crucial to their roles as advocates. These will be discussed in detail below.

Obtaining sex worker input

Consistent with the literature, participants expressed their views on obtaining sex worker input as they strived as an organisation to be representative of those they served (Capous-Desyllas, 2015; Gall, 2012; Newhouse, 2010; van der Meulen, 2011). This was strengthened by the fact that they were a group of peers, and their input was guided by their own lived experiences as sex workers. Participants described the methods they used to keep in regular contact with various sex worker populations in their communities, through meetings, social media and outreach visits, ensuring that the voice of sex workers is heard and valued. Participant 1 spoke of the huge amount of input they had as an organisation representative of sex worker rights into the PRA 2003. Echoed by Armstrong (2010), who wrote that the PRA 2003 was unique as it was written with input from sex workers in which the rights and wellbeing of sex workers were central to the policy.

Advocacy is most effective when it values the experiences of the often invisible, silent and vulnerable members of our community. Success comes in the form of the resulting changes to those individuals' lives, having been listened to and represented (Forbat & Atkinson, 2005). van der Meulen (2011) states that sex worker's opinions are rarely considered in the research and policy development process, and instead sex workers are negatively affected by poor policy decisions, an opinion often shared in the literature (Agustín, 2010; Majic, 2014; Wahab, 2003). However, continued research is important for building evidence based policies, and the participants were eager for more research, emphasising the need for partnership and working alongside sex workers to achieve positive outcomes for sex workers. Not only were the relationships with researchers important to ensure the sex worker input was considered, the participants also noted an

awareness of how they too represented and advocated for sex workers. Participant 3 noted that they could not speak for all sex workers, only for the organisation, which highlights the difficulties faced in reaching a consensus across the diversity of all sex workers.

Supporting sex workers

Participants discussed how their role involved supporting sex workers. Those perceived in need of the most support are street-based sex workers. Supporting this small but vulnerable and highly stigmatised group (Agustín, 2010; Brents & Hausbeck, 201; Harcourt et al., 2005; Hubbard & Prior, 2013; Scoular, 2010; Weitzer, 2005b) involves various forms of outreach, provision of a safe space to network, community development, resources and education to enable sex workers to make informed choices. Advocates enable people to make choices (Forbat & Atkinson, 2005). Participant 1 felt her role was to help those that helped themselves. Often sex workers are framed as victims lacking in agency, challenging this construction and reframing sex workers as empowered individuals helps to challenge anti-sex work polices (Sebastian, 2014).

Indicative of areas of current focus for the advocates, the participants kept coming back to issues surrounding migrant sex workers, occupation discrimination and further regulation of sex work, specifically street-based sex work and individuals working from home. The migrant sex worker population is seen to be another vulnerable group, as they are not supported under the current law in Aotearoa New Zealand (PRA, 2003). Anti-sex work groups frequently make unsubstantiated claims that migrant sex workers are trafficked (Gruskin et al., 2014; Halley et al., 2006), but similar to the views shared by the participants, Agustín (2010) suggests that the issue is much more complicated, and the trafficking debate has prevented sex workers from having safe working environments and has denied them of their basic human rights.

The participants did not see their role to be one of law enforcement, but their history with police and the law meant that they were well positioned to protect sex workers' best interests and advocate for improved legislation and policies. While it is understood that relationships with police have generally improved as a result of decriminalisation, and the participants did generally agree, Armstrong (2010) suggests that individual police may still display discrimination in dealings with street-based sex workers, suggesting an area where advocates can be useful.

Ensuring sex worker rights are upheld

Throughout the literature the main goal of sex workers' rights groups is described as seeking full decriminalisation and employment rights for all sex workers (West, 2000). As Wahab (2003) states, "sex workers deserve the same protection, respect, and violence-free life as all members of society" (p. 628). The same belief was held by the participants, as they perceived their role to ensure that sex workers have access to basic entitlements, and they advocated against unfair polices that negatively impact on the lives of all sex workers. Laverack and Whipple (2010) believe that sex work advocates in Aotearoa New Zealand are in a better position now to further advance the rights of sex workers, due to the relationships they have formed and the respect they have gained. Similar to the views of Participant 2, who spoke of the mana and credibility their organisation had earned from their continued and consistent efforts over the years.

Ongoing engagement with outsiders

Sex work advocacy involves a great deal of relationship building, engagement and educating those outside of the sex industry. Brents and Hausbeck (2010) attribute the success sex worker rights' groups from outside the United States to alliance building, and suggests that the stigma may lesson when the sex industry becomes more mainstream. Much of the literature discusses successful advocacy in terms of alliance building, working with existing coalitions and with those that are directly affected by the issue (Abel, 2014; Amon et al., 2015; Evans, 2005; Sebastian, 2014). In line with the literature, all participants placed an emphasis on the importance of relationships within their roles as advocates, describing their efforts which involved public speaking, dealing with the media and creating and maintaining alliances with key people in influential positions or those capable of making decisions. As Participant 3 stated, "*...it's really important to keep your elbows on the table and to keep talking"* indicating that successful advocacy takes time and continued, consistent effort. Alliances increase access to resources, which Sebastian (2014) believes are important for resource poor, marginalised groups. Partnerships are also seen to increase a movement's legitimacy, while community building allows sex workers to challenge their social stigmatisation and political marginalisation (Laverack & Whipple, 2010; Sebastian, 2014).

The controversial nature of sex work often means that these relationships must be carefully negotiated. Although Participant 3 was hesitant admitting that successful

advocacy meant avoiding polarisation, literature suggests that this is crucial in effective advocacy. Nash (2010) advises against alienation of oppositional groups as this prevents any chance of a sustained open dialogue and the possibility of finding common ground. Sebastian (2014) suggests that sex worker organisations must first position themselves more favourably in the public eye before seeking out alliances with politicians and other influential key people and groups. London (2010) also notes that advocates are unlikely to create negative emotions. Which may also help to explain the participants' advocacy success.

Influencing personal characteristics

Advocates are described in the literature as being highly motivated and deeply committed individuals (Johnson, 2015). This is echoed in the participants own perspectives, as Participant 3 stated, "*...it's inside of you. I feel very strongly about it. It's a belief system; it doesn't feel like a having-to-do, it's a must-be-done."* Her response clearly indicating her passion and drive for her advocacy work. To better understand how sex work advocates perceived their roles, it was thought necessary to better understand what motivated and sustained their work.

Lived experience as a sex worker

The participants' advocacy efforts are informed by their experiences as sex workers prior to the law change. Having worked in a criminalised environment, the participants were able to describe personal injustices that they either experienced or were witness to. Rather than just accepting these, they were driven to seek improvement of the working conditions for sex workers. As London (2010) explains, individuals are likely to become advocates if they were personally affected by the issues themselves. Participant 2 described her role as being highly visible. This meant that as an advocate she had to step out of the shadows and disclose her sex work history to the public. For some this would be a deterrent to advocacy work, as it leaves advocates vulnerable to further stigmatisation and discrimination (London, 2010; Majic, 2014). Participant 3 was wary of using personal stories to garner attention and support, as she felt that they detracted from main issue, and instead felt it was important to advocate ideas. However, the telling of stories can help to emphasise injustices, the sharing of sad self-disclosures or narratives can evoke empathy

and compassion in others which can generate more support (Nash, 2010; Newhouse, 2010).

The participants spoke of having credibility within their organisation and the wider community because of their backgrounds in sex work. This credibility is strengthened by the success they have had in achieving legislative change, as London (2010) states, advocates are likely to be well received when they visibly succeed in the change they have worked towards. For advocacy to be perceived positively, the advocate needs to be trust worthy, ethical and fair. It also helps if they are supported by respected and influential others (London, 2010). Handy and Kassam (2006) also note the importance of credibility within your community, which they believe to be necessary in order to empower those you are advocating for.

Feminism

When the participants were asked if they identified as feminists they responded somewhat apprehensively. All three participants agreed they were feminists, with Participant 1 admitting that she did not to begin with. This reluctance to welcome the feminist label may be in part due to the often tense relationship between sex work and feminism. Kesler (2002) asserts that most sex workers do not align themselves with the feminist movement due to the difficulties feminism presents to their way of life. The feminist position that the participants took was a more liberal one, consistent with sex positivity, sex worker agency, free choice, economic independence, and the underlying framing of sex work as legitimate work (Sebastian, 2014).

Throughout the interviews the participants spoke of feminist ideas and the impact this had on women and more specifically sex workers. Participant 2 questioned the concept of marriage, comparing it to prostitution and highlighting the obligations society expects of women once married, including the stereotypical gender roles. Participant 1 spoke of double standards, while Participant 3 called radical feminists out on their hypocrisy. None shared the view that sex work was demeaning or inherently violent towards women, but simply took the perspective that sex workers should be treated the same as any other worker. Unlike the United States and Sweden, where a long history of activism from second wave feminists has allowed for greater resources and access to governments, strongly opposed to sex workers' rights movements, sex workers' rights groups here have potentially been more successful due to Aotearoa New Zealand's more socially liberal stance (Barnett et al., 2010; Sebastian, 2014).

Values

To be driven to want to help others and improve their quality of life, advocates must possess a number of positive qualities (London, 2010). The participants discussed some of the influencing factors that affected their values and the way they saw the world. Participant 1 voiced a love of people and diversity, Participant 2's work was in part shaped by her Christian faith and ethnicity, while Participant 3 noted growing up though various influential social justice movements. These values along with qualities such as determination, passion, strength, love, acceptance, tolerance and patience, were demonstrated by the participants and are important to the role of advocacy. London (2010) lists a number of personal characteristics including: strength of conviction; self-confidence; and transformational skills such as empathy, social justice, fairness and altruism, which he states are needed to motivate advocates. Advocates also require the belief that people can be influenced (London, 2010), which is evidenced in Participant 3's statement: *"I have to think that will change."*

Participants felt that what they did was not something that was taught in school, and similar to the literature, effective sex work advocates seem to be few and far between. Gall (2010) discusses the fragility of sex worker organisations, due to the small number of committed activists that lead the efforts and represent their communities, and as such are subject to experiencing burnout and fatigue after sustained activity, particularly if unsuccessful. In a similar vein, Brents and Hausbeck (2010) note that problems can arise due to a shortage of committed activists. While the participants did not share stories of burnout, there was some fear that there would be no one to continue their efforts once they retired. Participant 2 was particularly worried, stating:

> *...you get people who are just not passionate enough about it, or just sort of happy to sit on the fence and not put your face up there. ...I look back and I think well I'm getting on a bit...I'm looking over in the centre now and I'm thinking who's going to be after me? There's gotta be someone after me.*

Role models

Having the right support is integral to success. Participant 2 noted the inspirational role models and mentors that she could draw from in times of need. London (2010) suggests that people may be more likely to become advocates if the cause is supported by people they admire. Throughout the course of the interviews there was also an underlying

perception that each of the participants were not only role models to each other on various levels, but they were role models to the sex workers they represented and to sex worker rights' groups overseas. While none of the participants explicitly labelled themselves as leaders, they all held positions of leadership within their organisation, which is fitting considering London (2010) states that advocacy itself implies taking a leadership role. The combination of their experience, qualities and skills places them in a position to empower and possibly be role models to those who experience the direct impact of problematic policy and regulation.

Perceptions of sex work

Sex workers are stereotyped as "financially frivolous, unaccountable, and ultimately undeserving of publicly funded health services." (Jeffreys, 2006, p. 117). The selling of sex is accused of objectifying women and perpetuating patriarchal control over women's bodies and sexuality (Sebastian, 2014). Perceptions such as these can have negative impacts on the lives of sex workers, and as advocates, the participants were well aware of these perceptions and the damaging effect they can have.

Sex work myths

Activists challenge dominant discourses within the community (Majic, 2014), the participants also actively challenged people on their beliefs, as illustrated by Participant 1 when she said: *"I've done a lot of public speaking from that perspective of..."what's wrong with it?" ...sometimes you can see that people are quite surprised and it makes them think in a different way about what they've always prejudged previously."*

Given the nature of sex work, the participants commented on the difficulties experienced when confronted with strong opposition to their movement. This is particularly hard when media reinforces the stereotypes of sex workers (Armstrong, 2010), and sex work is conflated with trafficking (Jeffreys, 2006; Kissil & Davey, 2010; Weitzer, 2010). Sebastian (2014) too, asserts that the media can profoundly shape the discourse surrounding a social movement. But as Jeffreys (2006) points out, literature written with or by sex workers themselves helps to correct the myths, similarly the participants also perceived their role to involve preventing myths from being perpetuated.

Stigma

Stigma perpetuates the myth that sex work is dangerous, an idea that then justifies state regulation and criminalisation, and denies sex workers their agency (Bowen & Bungay, 2016). Stigma makes individuals feel worthless (Bowen & Bungay, 2016) and as Koken (2012) states, it can have "very real consequences on the health and safety of sex workers." (p. 212). It is therefore important to consider how advocacy efforts address the issue of stigma. Each of the participants shared their own personal experiences with stigma, which included the management of stigma, and advice they would offer sex workers when it came to disclosing their involvement in the sex industry. Participant 3 raised concerns over sex workers distancing themselves from sex workers with drug dependency issues. Literature also discusses this phenomenon, including the techniques employed by sex workers to counteract stigma, including avoidance, deception, and resistance, which may be seen in the framing of sex work as work, or capacity building within peer networks to advocate for sex worker rights (Bowen & Bungay, 2016; Brents & Hausbeck, 2010; Levey & Pinsky, 2015). Consistent with the literature (Armstrong, 2010) participants saw their role as being one to challenge others on their preconceived ideas as well as provide public education to raise the awareness on the realities of sex work, and with the support from bigger organisations such as Amnesty International, they believed this would strengthen their cause.

Discrimination and exploitation

Due to the negative perception of sex work, sex workers often face harsh judgement, discrimination, and exploitation. Discrimination can result in further marginalisation and stigmatisation (Laverack & Whipple, 2010). Throughout the interviews participants highlighted issues of occupational discrimination. Participant 1 compared sex work to other occupations such as massage or beauty therapy and hair stylists. These occupations all involved working with the body, but were far more acceptable because they did not involve sex. Participants spoke of selective disclosure in an attempt to negate potential discrimination, as well as being wary of what information is recorded in government files. Mindful that employers and institutions can still legally discriminate against sex workers, participants saw their role to improve the legislation, so this was not possible. Sex work should not be used to define a person, but as highlighted by Jeffreys (2006), courts, banks, landlords and visa officials have all been known to discriminate against sex workers because of their chosen profession. Sex work histories have also prevented individuals

from working in public service, due to being "told that they are not 'upholding public standards,'" (Jeffreys, 2006, p. 113).

Sex work as work

Consistent with the literature, the participants maintained a non-judgemental view of sex work, in which they viewed sex work as a legitimate form of labour. By taking this stance, the participants are free of influence from a moralistic position. Which as Bell (2009) argues, morality is objective and should not be the basis for law. Adopting the view that sex work is work also helps to reduce the stigma associated with sex work (Gall, 2010), empowers sex workers, increases their access to sexual health services (Kim & Alliance, 2015) and increases opportunities for alliance building (Brents & Hausbeck, 2010). van der Meulen (2011) recommends the conceptualisation of sex work as work, the inclusion of sex worker input in policy decisions, decriminalisation of sex work, support for sex worker unionisation and organising, and sex worker-led workplace standards in order to improve policy for sex workers, all of which are in force in Aotearoa New Zealand as described by the participants.

The construction of an ideal world

When participants were asked to consider what an ideal world would look like for sex workers, they spoke of it as a world without stigma and one with increased acceptance and equality. Participant 1 looked forward to the day that sex workers would be appreciated by prospective non-sex industry employers for the numerous skills they have to offer. Sex workers have many transferable skills in time management, marketing, negotiating, business, safety, de-escalation, therapy, massage, performance (Jeffreys, 2006; Rickard, 2001) as well as being highly skilled in compassion and communication (Wahab, 2003). The participants agreed that there is still work to be done before society fully embraces sex workers. Brents and Hausbeck (2010) discuss how cultural and economic changes have begun to influence the sex industry. They argue that the sex industry is becoming more mainstream and as culture becomes more sexualised, the social norms around sexuality are beginning to shift. However, not all sex workers are treated the same, those that can pass for upper class are tolerated over others. The inequality that exists within the sex work industry creates divisions that have caused problems with sex work organising. As Brents and Hausbeck (2010) state, "the acceptability of the sex industry is as much about social class, race and ethnicity as it is about liberal attitudes toward sexuality" (p. 16). Participant 1 noted that double standards still exist, men are praised for multiple sexual activities whereas women are expected to behave differently. From a feminist perspective

these attitudes could be viewed as the result of living in a patriarchal society, in which male dominance is asserted over females to remain in control (Comte, 2014; Harrington, 2012; Kesler, 2002). As Armstrong (2010) notes there needs to be greater awareness of the realities faced by sex workers, and patriarchal norms that cast street-based workers as deviant need to be broken down in order for the human rights of sex workers to be fully realised.

The regulation of sex work

Countries around the world have taken different approaches in the regulation of sex work. But as the focus of this research was to understand sex work advocacy in an environment of decriminalisation, much of the participants' perspectives highlighted the positive outcomes of decriminalisation to date and their concerns for maintaining the current model, particularly when groups opposed to sex work seek further regulation of the industry. Literature notes that sex work advocates are usually tasked with working in environments that are strongly opposed to sex work or view sex work as a crime, therefore building support for reform is extremely challenging (van der Meulen, 2011). Gaining public support from politicians and other key decision makers can be made difficult if anti-trafficking/anti-sex work groups are successful in framing sex work as a trafficking issue (Brents & Hausbeck, 2010). Furthermore, the heavy regulation of sex work can reinforce or maintain the stigma associated with sex work, and therefore policy and legal reform are necessary to create lawful work and a sense of social legitimacy for sex workers (Gall, 2012).

Decriminalisation
A significant part of the participants' experiences as advocates was advocating for and achieving legislative reform in Aotearoa New Zealand. Decriminalisation is seen by its supporters as an important first step in improving the wellbeing of sex workers, however it is also recognised that a lot more is required for all sex workers to be free of stigma and abuse (Armstrong, 2010). Sex workers' rights activists blame laws that criminalise workplaces and work activities for the violence sex workers endure, and not the work itself. They therefore advocate for social and policy changes to improve working conditions in the sex industry (Kim & Alliance, 2015; van der Meulen, 2011). This too, was an opinion shared by the participants. As Participant 3 noted, legislation alone is not enough to

change the perceptions others have on sex work, this sentiment is also held by Brents and Hausbeck (2010) who maintain that legislation can be very powerful if combined with cultural change. Sex work activists have had success in changing laws, but research carried out with sex workers in Nevada, Australia, the Netherlands and Germany show that the stigma associated with sex work does not always change with legalisation (Brents & Hausbeck, 2010). Those in support of decriminalisation urge governments to work in partnership with sex worker-led organisations to advance evidence-based policies and practices (Kim & Alliance, 2015).

The participants shared their experiences of working with the government and other key groups, including their frustrations due to the ongoing challenges involved in ensuring the original intention of the PRA 2003 is not forgotten. Indicative that their roles involved being critical of any policy that would negatively impact on the lives of sex workers, Participant 2 stating her annoyance with local councils trying to regulate street-based work, and the New Zealand First party's latest proposal to amend the PRA 2003, emphasising the ongoing battle the advocates struggle with.

They also spoke of the sacrifices they had to make when negotiating for the current legislation, to ensure it passed and they could then move forward. London (2010) highlights the need for advocates to have political skills, which include being socially perceptive. This was an awareness Participant 3 had, recognising that as a group they needed to pick their battles and read the climate to know the best time to act and push for change in order to be successful. In this sense both support and timing are crucial in effective advocacy, which was supported by the literature (Laverack & Whipple, 2010; Newhouse, 2010).

Participant 3 highlighted issues with the current legislation with specific reference to migrant sex workers. This part of the legislation was intended to curb trafficking, however there has been no evidence to suggest that there have been any sex workers that have been found to be victims of trafficking (Barnett et al., 2010). As such, Participant 3 felt that this clause in the Act is unfair and discriminatory towards migrants choosing to work in the industry, ultimately perpetuating the conflation of women that migrate on their own accord with intention of working in the sex industry, with women and children forced into sexual slavery (Abel & Fitzgerald, 2010).

While there were differences in opinions between the participants as to the stability of the PRA 2003, each perspective aligned with various opinions throughout the literature. Participant 1 felt confident that the government would continue to support the decriminalisation of sex work due to the high cost of HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment. This belief is supported by Kim and Alliance (2015) who discuss how the decriminalisation of sex work can have a significant impact on the reduction of HIV epidemics and cost savings. Participant 2 felt more concerned that there was always a constant worry that things could change at any moment. This unease is congruent with international literature that describes the ongoing difficulties faced by sex worker rights organisations in advocating for decriminalisation (Majic, 2014; van der Meulen, 2011; Weitzer, 2010).

Aotearoa New Zealand's influence

Aotearoa New Zealand has had the attention of other countries as they wait to see the outcomes of decriminalising sex work. All of the participants have been involved in sharing their experiences internationally, with Participant 2 and 3 both being currently active in attending various events abroad, including being invited to speak to politicians and other groups. Thus clearly indicating that their role extends beyond the shores of Aotearoa.

Participant 2 demonstrated a lot of empathy for sex workers and advocates fighting for decriminalisation overseas, offering support, understanding and hope that their situation will improve. Inspiring others is an important part of advocacy (London, 2010). As noted by Laverack and Whipple (2010), providing opportunities for sex workers to connect helps to alleviate feelings of isolation. Participant 2 indicted this bond by calling sex workers overseas, *"our sister counterparts in other parts of the world"*. Although Aotearoa New Zealand has taken steps to improve the rights and wellbeing of sex workers locally, the participants were connected to a much bigger fight, offering support and experience to those seeking to improve the lives of all sex workers.

Conclusion

This chapter has considered the experiences and perspectives of the participants and identified the similarities between the research findings and the reviewed literature. Whilst all participants described their roles in similar ways, each participant was unique and shared slightly different opinions. They were, however, all united by a drive and passion that sought inclusion, equality and social justice for sex workers. The findings suggest that the perceptions sex work advocates have of their roles are shaped by who they are and

their own personal experiences, as well as the shared belief that sex workers should be afforded the same right as any other kind of employee, and sex work should be viewed as a legitimate form of labour. They all felt it was important to have been or be sex workers themselves in order to be truly representative of their community, which added to their credibility as advocates within their own community, but also to a greater extent in the wider community. They believed that decisions regarding policy, legislation and research that affect sex workers should not be made without consultation with sex workers themselves. This was clearly a big part of their role, which ultimately sought to support and empower sex workers in whatever way they needed. All participants agreed that to reduce the stigma associated with sex work was going to take a lot more than legislative reform, and is dependent on the combined efforts of society as a whole. As advocates they saw their role as being one in which to challenge peoples' perceptions and actively encouraged conversations to help educate the uneducated in the world of sex work. Their work goes largely unnoticed by the general public, but has had a massive impact on those involved in the sex industry.

The following chapter draws conclusions from the research, and offers recommendations based on these conclusions.

Chapter Six

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The purpose of this research has been to explore the perspectives of three experienced sex work advocates, specifically with regard to how they perceived their roles and the part they play in reducing the stigma associated with sex work. Insightful data emerged from the qualitative semi-structured interviews conducted with each of these three sex work advocates who all had extensive experience working within a national organisation whose role is to advocate for the human rights, health and wellbeing of all sex workers. An analysis of the research results and relevant literature has revealed that despite having played an instrumental role in achieving legislative reform with the decriminalisation of sex work, advocates continue to play a vital role in ensuring the human rights, health and wellbeing of all sex workers is maintained within Aotearoa New Zealand, as well as championing the way forward for sex worker rights' groups internationally. This chapter presents conclusions of the research and recommendations for future research.

Conclusions of the research

This research contributes to the literature on sex work advocacy, with specific reference to the Aotearoa New Zealand experience. The findings from this study align with the reviewed literature on social attitudes on sex work, the challenges faced by sex worker led organisations, experiences of stigma, outcomes of legislation and the role of advocacy. The advocates identified several key aspects in relation to how they perceived their role.

The advocates perceived their roles in a number of ways, advocacy in general can mean different things to different people. As noted previously sex work advocacy is concerned with campaigning for legal reform, human, civil, labour and economic rights (Gall, 2010; 2012). The activities undertaken by advocates are varied and far reaching, their roles involved a variety of strategies aimed at improving the lives of sex workers, underpinned by the conceptualisation of sex work as work. The participants did not express any moral judgement on sex work. They believed that they were there to support sex workers in whatever way sex workers needed their support. Driven by an impassioned sense of social justice, each of the participants strongly believed in giving sex workers autonomy over their own lives, including being involved in decisions that would impact on their lives. They described themselves as inclusive, accepting, credible and representative. These narratives

were repeated throughout the literature, which also advocated for the voice of sex workers to be heard and incorporated into research, policy and legislation.

Recommendations

The findings presented in this report have raised a number of issues that could form the basis of future research. These issues included: collaboration, migrant sex workers, the influence of morality, and the wellbeing of sex workers.

Congruent with that of the literature, all three participants recommended that more research be undertaken with regard to future advocacy efforts. Research on sex workers has often been criticised for not hearing the voice of sex workers, this was also reinforced by the perspectives of the participants. Sex workers implore researchers to take into account their own voice and recognise that sex work is a legitimate occupation.

Collaboration

It is therefore recommended that further research continues to seek sex worker input, encouraging further collaboration between sex workers, sex work advocates, police, social services, health care providers and other relevant professionals could help improve services for sex workers. Sex workers need to be recognised as experts in their own lives and included in the design of research and policy on sex work to enable more relevant and effective programmes, interventions, and policies. Partnerships should be encouraged between sex workers, researchers, service providers and policy makers so that sex workers may benefit from effective strategies to improve their health and wellbeing. As relationships and alliances were seen as an integral part of advocacy, further encouragement of unlikely alliances is recommended. While opinions may differ, it is important to avoid polarisation, and instead find common ground in which to seek to improve outcome for sex workers.

Despite Aotearoa New Zealand's inclusion of sex worker input this there are still ongoing challenges in negotiating existing issues within the current legislation, including mandatory condom use, migrant sex workers, occupation discrimination, and further regulation of sex work, specifically street-based sex work and individuals working from home. While each of these areas indicate current areas of focus for the advocates, they also suggest areas for further research.

Not only is collaboration with sex workers vital to ensuring the best possible outcomes for sex workers, but sex work advocates' perspectives may also be relevant when it comes to other professionals, such as social workers working with sex workers. While the advocates did recommend that they be left to deal specific issues surrounding sex work, their expertise should be taken on board, and professionals should be more aware of any bias they may have in their dealings with sex workers in order to prevent further discrimination and stigmatisation. As noted by Wahab (2003) feminists, social workers and helping professionals tend to view sex works as victims and/or deviants who are in need of rescuing. If instead they adopted a more collaborative and empowering model of practice they would be more effective in working with and for sex workers to help achieve positive change.

Migrant sex workers

With specific reference to the issues surrounding migrant sex workers, the inclusion of a section in the PRA 2003 preventing migrants from legally seeking work in the sex industry in Aotearoa New Zealand, has not meant that migrant sex workers do not exist here in Aotearoa New Zealand. But instead has meant that they are not protected under the law, and are therefore at a higher risk of being exploited, working in unsafe environments and denied their basic human rights. Further research into this specific population in Aotearoa New Zealand could lead to improved policy and legislation, and seek to improve the health and wellbeing of migrant sex workers.

The influence of morality

It is evident that despite over a century of research on sex work, dogma and morality still continue to influence law and policy which seeks control over female sexual behaviour (Harrington, 2012). Continued discussions on the distinction between morality and law are required if we, as a society are to move forward. Feminists could play a significant role by initiating conversations that facilitate and promote a more positive way forward for women and sex workers. Opinions and ideas that are harmful to sex workers need to be further analysed, adopting a blanket understanding that sex work is a form of violence against women ignores women's right to make their own choices, and further stigmatises the industry. More robust research on both the negative and positive effects of sex work may be of benefit, with more resources being put into protecting the rights of sex workers, rather than punishing those that choose this lifestyle.

Wellbeing of sex workers

A further recommendation as a result of this research would be increasing the focus on the wellbeing of sex workers, rather than making moral judgements on sex work. While society may have a way to go before sex work is fully accepted, it should be understood that no member of our society should be seen as disposable and not worthy of protection. Sex workers should therefore be afforded the same rights as any other worker, and the conditions in which they work should be fair and safe. Sex workers are valuable members of our community, providing a service that few are prepared to do. They are individuals in possession of a variety of skills, including empathy, compassion, communication, this needs to be recognised.

Whilst research suggests that decriminalisation is beneficial to sex workers, the most vulnerable population of sex workers, those who tend to be street-based, require the most support, not only due to their chosen occupation, but because a number of adversities they may have to overcome. Thus the advocate's role helps to prevent them from falling further into the cracks of society and at risk of being marginalised further by policies that do not address their basic needs. As it was often highlighted, legislation alone is not enough to rid the world of the stigma associated with sex work. There is no short term solution to this, and efforts must take a long term approach. Although legislation goes a long way in protecting the basic rights of sex workers, a more liberal understanding of sex work will be required of society before sex workers are fully embraced within our communities. While societal and cultural attitudes may be slowly changing, individuals could be more proactive in adopting a more liberal and accepting approach. By taking more ownership of one's actions and beliefs, and seeking to challenge and stand up to stigma, this could come in the form of befriending a sex worker, seeking to educate oneself, and making an effort not to be judgemental and discriminatory.

Additionally, advocates need continued support if they are to remain effective. While literature noted the fragility of sex worker led organisations, this was interestingly not described in the Aotearoa New Zealand experience. There was however some concern amongst the participants regarding the future, particularly when their time with the organisation is up. Therefore, signalling a possible need for more support, and recruitment of likeminded individuals to continue their efforts. Advocacy is a core component of social work, and perhaps there should be more inclusion of this and activism, in the social work curriculum. In order to encourage and sustain social action, and attract committed activists

and advocates, educating others on the importance and value of activism and advocacy may also be key to becoming more effective.

Finally, it is important to reiterate that this research has contributed to the body of knowledge regarding sex work advocacy, with specific reference to the Aotearoa New Zealand experience and the role of advocacy after the decriminalisation of sex work had been achieved. This has been accomplished by presenting the views of three experienced sex work advocates in Aotearoa New Zealand, in order to gain insight into how positive change can be achieved to improve the health and wellbeing of sex workers. This research has demonstrated the need for further development and understanding of the factors that impact on sex work, which can be brought about by further research.

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LETTER OF INVITATION

MASSEY UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF HEALTH
TE KURA HAUORA TANGATA

30th June 2015

████████████████████████████
████████████

Re: Massey University Research

Kia Ora ██████████,

My name is Kim Sheehan, and I am currently completing a Master of Applied Social Work (MAppSW) at Massey University. As part of the Masters programme I am conducting a research project, which seeks to explore the perspectives of sex work advocates in Aotearoa New Zealand in relation to how they perceive their role, including what part they play in reducing the stigma of sex work, what they understand to be the current issues faced by sex workers, to effect positive change, given the success of having achieved legislative change with the Prostitution Reform Act 2003.

It is hoped that these perspectives will provide a deeper understanding of the current issues faced by sex workers, and how successful advocacy is achieved. This may in turn lead to better outcomes for sex workers.

This research will be carried out under the supervision of Dr. Michael Dale (m.p.dale@massey.ac.nz).

I am hoping to interview three members of the ████████████████████████████ who are actively involved in advocating for sex workers in Aotearoa New Zealand, that are not currently working as sex workers, in order to meet criteria for a low-risk human ethics approval.

I have attached the Information Sheet, and Interview Schedule for forwarding to members who would meet the criteria. These provide information on the project and explain what participation will involve. I would also like to note, that while efforts will be taken to keep individual participants' identities confidential, it may not be possible to successfully mask the identity of the ████████ ████████████, given the size of Aotearoa New Zealand and position you have within the community.

A copy of the summary of findings will be provided to you on completion of the project. Please contact me if you have any questions relating to this research project.

Ngā mihi nui,
Yours sincerely,

Kim Sheehan
Email: ████████████████████
Phone: ████████████

INFORMATION SHEET

MASSEY UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF HEALTH
TE KURA HAUORA TANGATA

Sex work advocacy in Aotearoa New Zealand: Advocates' perspectives on effecting positive change.
INFORMATION SHEET

Kia Ora,

I am a Master of Applied Social Work (MAppSW) student at Massey University. As part of this degree I am undertaking a research project under the supervision of Dr. Michael Dale. I am writing to invite you to take part in this research project.

The purpose of the research is to explore the perspectives of sex work advocates and how they perceive their role, to further understand the intended outcomes of sex work advocacy, the role they play in reducing the stigma of sex work and how advocates effect positive change. It is hoped that these perspectives will provide insight into the current issues faced by sex workers, given the success of having already achieved legislative change with the enactment of the Prostitution Reform Act 2003. I also believe that this research has the potential to be of interest to a wide range of practitioners, who through the course of their work come in contact with sex workers. I could only hope to encourage a dialogue between members of the greater social work community, which as a result may help give them a greater understanding of any challenges sex workers face, and how best to support them.

As this is a small research project I am hoping to interview three members of the ███████████ ███████████████ who play an active role within sex work advocacy in Aotearoa New Zealand. To ensure I meet the requirements of a 'low-risk' MAppSW Human Ethics Approval I require the potential participants to meet the following criteria:

- Be a member of the ████████████████████████
- Currently active in a sex work advocacy role
- Not currently working as a sex worker
- Resides in Aotearoa New Zealand
- Has access to a computer with internet access and Skype
- Able to participate in an interview conducted in English.

I would also like to note, that while efforts will be taken to keep individual participants' identities confidential, it may not be possible to successfully mask the identity of the ████████████████ ████████, given the size of Aotearoa New Zealand and position the ██████ has within the community. Participants will take part in a one-hour, qualitative, semi-structured interview with me via Skype at a mutually convenient time and location, where computer access, with the appropriate software and a reliable internet connection is available. The interview will be sound recorded and transcribed. I will send a copy of the transcription to the participant to review and make any changes. This may take up to half an hour. The recorded interview and transcript will be stored digitally on the researcher's private computer, protected by a password. Any printed material will be stored in a locked cabinet. All copies, both digital and printed, will be safely disposed of once the researcher has received her grade.

Participant's Rights
The following Statement of Rights must be included:
You are under no obligation to accept this invitation. If you decide to participate, you have the right to:

- decline to answer any particular question;

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- withdraw from the study (up until the edited transcription is signed);
- ask any questions about the study at any time during participation;
- provide information on the understanding that your name will not be used unless you give permission to the researcher;
- be given access to a summary of the project findings when it is concluded;
- ask for the recorder to be turned off at any time during the interview.

Data Management
- The identity of participants will be maintained and only known by my supervisor and myself.
- Names of individuals will not be used in the final report.
- All data relating to this research will be deleted or destroyed upon complete and assessment of the research report.
- A summary of the research findings will be sent to all participants.

I have included the interview schedule to give you an indication of the key themes I hope to discuss in the interview. If this research interests, you or you have questions please contact me at: Email ████████████████████████████, Phone: ████████████

Additionally if you have any concerns regarding this research you may contact my supervisor, Dr. Michael Dale on: Email: m.p.dale@massey.ac.nz, Phone (06) 356 9099 ext 83522

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Ngā mihi nui,

Student researcher,
Kim Sheehan

This project has been evaluated by peer review and judged to be low risk. Consequently, it has not been reviewed by one of the University's Human Ethics Committees. The researcher(s) named above are responsible for the ethical conduct of this research.

If you have any concerns about the conduct of this research that you wish to raise with someone other than the researcher(s), please contact Dr. Brian Finch, Director (Research Ethics), telephone 06 356 9009, extn 86015, email humanethics@massey.ac.nz.

Sex work advocacy in Aotearoa New Zealand: Advocates' perspectives on effecting positive change.

Personal experience
1. What is your role within the organisation?
2. How do you perceive your role?
3. What attracted you to this role? (i.e. motivations).
4. What have you learnt from your experiences as an advocate? (i.e. mistakes/accomplishments).

Successful advocacy
5. How do you define advocacy. What does effective advocacy mean to you?
6. What characteristics or personal attributes do you think are important to be a successful advocate for sex workers? (philosophies/worldviews/values/moral perspectives/etc).
7. In your view, what are the intended outcomes of sex work advocacy?

Stigma
8. What effect do you think your organisation, or you as an individual, have had on changing public perceptions/attitudes/practices towards sex work/ers?
9. What role do sex work advocates play in working to reduce stigma? What would that require?

Decriminalisation
10. In your opinion what impact has decriminalisation had for sex workers, your agency and the wider community? (Any international impact?) *(Have their been any negative effects as a result of decriminalisation that you are aware of?)*
11. What barriers/challenges still exist for sex workers, given the move to decriminalise sex work, how does your organisation address these?

Challenges
12. Given the diversity of sex work and sex workers themselves, are there difficulties in meeting their potentially differing needs? How are these managed?
13. Are you aware of any current tensions that threaten the work that you do, and if so, could you please explain? (e.g. organisational/political/social/relationships with other agencies).

Future aspirations
14. In your opinion, are there areas (such as in the social services/health/education/law enforcement/etc) that require more emphasis/support to support sex workers? (resources/services/ec).
15. What would an ideal world for sex workers look like? How close is Aotearoa New Zealand to achieving this?

Final thoughts
16. Is there anything else you would like to add, that you feel is important, that we haven't yet discussed?

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Sex work advocacy in Aotearoa New Zealand: Advocates' perspectives on effecting positive change.

PARTICIPANT CONSENT FORM

I have read the Information Sheet and have had the details of the study explained to me. My questions have been answered to my satisfaction, and I understand that I may ask further questions at any time.

I agree/do not agree to the interview being sound recorded.
I agree to participate in this study under the conditions set out in the Information Sheet.

Signature: .... Date: ....

Full Name (printed): ....

AUTHORITY FOR THE RELEASE OF TRANSCRIPTS

MASSEY UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF HEALTH
TE KURA HAUORA TANGATA

Sex work advocacy in Aotearoa New Zealand: Advocates' perspectives on effecting positive change

AUTHORITY FOR THE RELEASE OF TRANSCRIPTS

I confirm that I have had the opportunity to read and amend the transcript of the interview conducted with me.

I agree that the edited transcript and extracts from this may be used in reports and publications arising from the research.

Signature: .... Date: ....

Full Name (printed): ....

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MASW Human Ethics Application 179.895 2015

FOR APPROVAL OF PROPOSED RESEARCH/TEACHING/EVALUATION INVOLVING HUMAN PARTICIPANTS

(Applications must be presented using language free from jargon and comprehensible to lay people)

SECTION A

1.	**Project Title**	Sex work advocacy in Aotearoa New Zealand: Advocates' perspectives on effecting positive change.
2.	**Research Question**	What are the perspectives of sex work advocates in relation to how they perceive their role, and the part they play in reducing stigma, to effect positive change, under a decriminalisation model?

3. STUDENT APPLICATION for 179.895 Palmerston North (MApplSW)

Full Name of Student Applicant	Kim Sheehan
Employer (if applicable)	N/A
Telephone ▮▮▮▮	**Email Address** ▮▮▮▮
Postal Address ▮▮▮▮	
Full Name of Supervisor	Dr Michael Dale
Programme/School of Supervisor	School of Social Work
Campus *(mark one only)*	**Palmerston North** [x]
Telephone +646-3569099 ext 83522	**Email Address** m.p.dale@massey.ac.nz

4. **Summary of Project: Outline in no more than 200 words in lay language a) Background to the project b) why you have chosen this project (c) what you intend to do and (d) the methods you will use.**

(Note: all the information provided in the application is potentially available if a request is made under the Official Information Act. In the event that a request is made, the University, in the first instance, would endeavour to satisfy that request by providing this summary. Please ensure that the language used is comprehensible to all)

Advocacy is important in social work, as it is a way of promoting equality, social justice and social inclusion. Marginalised groups within the community are often supported by specialist organisations to help address the injustices they face, in order to effect positive change. Sex workers are a diverse group of people that have historically had to fight against injustices and cope with the stigma attached to the industry. The ▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮ has fought for human rights, health and wellbeing of all sex workers. This has lead to the Prostitution Reform Act 2003, which has seen the decriminalisation of sex work in Aotearoa New Zealand.

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Despite an extensive literature on prostitution, little has been written on the impact of decriminalisation. This research project will explore the perspectives of sex work advocates in relation to how they perceive their role given the success of having already achieved legislative change.

A qualitative method utilising semi-structured interviews with three members of the ████ will be conducted to gain a deeper understanding of the current issues faced by sex workers after decriminalisation from advocates' perspectives. Interviews will be recorded, transcribed and thematically analysed, and a report written of the findings.

5. **List the Attachments to your Application**, e.g. Completed "Screening Questionnaire to Determine the Approval Procedure" (compulsory), Information Sheet/s *(indicate how many)*, Translated copies of Information Sheet/s, Consent Form/s *(indicate of how many)*, Translated copies of Consent Form/s, Transcriber's Confidentiality Agreement, Confidentiality Agreement *(for persons **other than** the researcher / participants who have access to project data)*, Authority for Release of Tape Transcripts, Advertisement, Health Checklist, Questionnaire, Interview Schedule, Evidence of Consultation, Letter requesting access to an institution, Letter requesting approval for use of database, Other *(please specify).*

Appendix A: Letter of invitation
Appendix B: Information sheet
Appendix C: Interview schedule
Appendix D: Participant consent form
Appendix E: Authority for the release of transcripts
Appendix F: MASW Human Ethics Application
Appendix G: Notification of low risk research
Appendix H: Screening questionnaire
Appendix I: Acceptance letter
Appendix J: Research procedure flow chart

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SECTION B: PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Details

6 **State concisely the aims of the project.** *(To explore, examine, investigate… Do not write outcomes)*
To explore the perspectives of sex work advocates in Aotearoa New Zealand in relation to how they perceive their role. To further understand the intended outcomes of sex work advocacy. To explore the role sex work advocates play in reducing the stigma of sex work, and how advocates effect positive change, particularly under the decriminalisation model.

7 **Outline the research procedures to be used, including approach/procedures for collecting data. Use a flow chart to provide a step by step summary.**
See appendix 7

8 **Where will the project be conducted?   Include information about the physical location/setting.**
The project will be conducted from ▮▮▮▮ Aotearoa New Zealand. Interviews will be conducted using Skype at a location agreed upon by the researcher and each participant, taking into account the need for internet/computer access and confidentiality.

9 **Describe the experience of the researcher to undertake this project.**
I have no previous research experience; however my supervisor will provide me with ongoing support throughout the research project. I have gained skills necessary to conduct interviews through employment as a case manager, which will allow me to develop rapport with participants within ethical and safe guidelines and practice in a non-judgemental and open manner.

10 **Describe the peer review process used in assessing the ethical issues present in this project.**
The Massey University Code of Ethical Conduct for Research, Teaching and Evaluations involving Human Participants, was first read to ensure that this project would meet the necessary requirements. This application has then been discussed with my research supervisor to consider any ethical issues present in this project. Further recommendations and amendments have been made following its review by two other academic staff from the School of Social Work.

Participants

11 **Describe the intended participants.**
The intended participants are sex work advocates/members of the ▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮ ▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮ that are not currently actively working as sex workers, who reside in Aotearoa New Zealand.

12 **How many participants will be involved?**
Three

13 **What is the reason for selecting this number?**
(Where relevant, attach a copy of the Statistical Justification to the application form)

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This number of participants has been selected as this is a small-scale, qualitative research project focusing on gaining an in depth understanding of sex work advocacy in New Zealand Aotearoa. It will enable sufficient data to be collected for the purpose of this small research project.

14	**Describe how potential participants will be identified and recruited?**

I will send an email request to the ████████████████████████ ████████████ explaining the research project and will ask if they can forward the attached information sheet to members actively involved in sex work advocacy, but not currently working as sex workers.

15	**Does the project involve recruitment through advertising?** Yes ☐ No ☒

(If yes, attach a copy of the advertisement to the application form)

16	**Does the project require permission of an organisation (e.g. an educational institution, an academic unit of Massey University or a business) to access participants or information?** Yes ☒ No ☐

████████████████████████ : Appendix 2

17	**Who will make the initial approach to potential participants?**

The ████████████████████████████ will make the initial approach to their members, the potential participants.

18	**Describe criteria (if used) to select participants from the pool of potential participants.**

I will accept the first three respondents that meet the following criteria:
- Member of the ████████████████████
- Currently active in a sex work advocacy role
- Not currently working as a sex worker
- Resides in Aotearoa New Zealand
- Has access to a computer with internet access and Skype
- Able to participate in an interview conducted in English

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19 **How much time will participants have to give to the project? (Interview, review, reading)**
Approximately 1.75 hours:
Reading the interview schedule – 15 minutes
Interview – 60 minutes
Transcript review – 30 minutes

Data Collection

20 **Does the project include the use of participant questionnaire/s?** **Yes** [ ] **No** [x]

(If yes, attach a copy of the Questionnaire/s to the application form and include this in your list of attachments (Q5))

i) indicate whether the participants will be anonymous, (i.e. their identity unknown to the researcher). **Yes** [ ] **No** [x]

ii) describe how the questionnaire will be distributed and collected.

(If distributing electronically through Massey IT, attach a copy of the request letter to the Director, Information Technology Services to the application form. Include this in your list of attachments (Q5))

21 **Does the project involve observation of participants? If yes, please describe.** **Yes** [ ] **No** [x]

22 **Does the project include the use of focus group/s?** **Yes** [ ] **No** [x]
(If yes, attach a copy of the Confidentiality Agreement for the focus group to the application for
If yes, describe the location of the focus group and time length, including whether it will be in work time. *(If the latter, ensure the researcher asks permission for this from the employer).*

23 **Does the project include the use of participant interview/s?** **Yes** [x] **No** [ ]
(If yes attach a copy of the Interview Questions/Schedule to the application form)
See appendix 5
If yes, describe the location of the interview and time length, including whether it will be in work time. *(If the latter, ensure the researcher asks permission for this from the employer).*
The interview will take approximately 1 hour and will take place at a time and location agreed upon by the participant and the interviewer. Mindful that the participant will need access to a computer with Skype and a reliable internet connection. The arranged time will fit around the participant's work and personal commitments. It is most likely that interviews will take place outside of work time.

24 **Does the project involve sound recording?** **Yes** [x] **No** [ ]

Appendix F

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25	**Does the project involve image recording, e.g. photo or video?** **If yes, please describe.**	Yes [ ] No [x]

(If agreement for recording is optional for participation, ensure there is explicit consent on the Consent Form)

26	**If recording is used, will the record be transcribed?**	Yes [x] No [ ]

If yes, state who will do the transcribing.

(If not the researcher, a Transcriber's Confidentiality Agreement is required – attach a copy to the application form. Normally, transcripts of interviews should be provided to participants for editing, therefore an Authority For the Release of Tape Transcripts is required – attach a copy to the application form. However, if the researcher considers that the right of the participant to edit is inappropriate, a justification should be provided below)
The researcher

27	**Does the project involve any other method of data collection not covered in Qs 20-26?** **If yes, describe the method used**	Yes [ ] No [x]

28	**Does the project require permission to access databases?**	Yes [ ] No [x]

(If yes, attach a copy of the request letter/s to the application form. Include this in your list of attachments (Q5))
<u>(Note:</u> If you wish to access the Massey University student database, written permission from Director, National Student Relations should be attached).*

29	**Who will carry out the data collection?**
	The researcher

SECTION C: BENEFITS / RISK OF HARM (Refer Code Section 3, Para 10)

30	**What are the possible benefits (if any) of the project to individual participants, groups, communities and institutions?**

It is acknowledged that it is the researcher, who will benefit most from undertaking this research project, as it fulfils in part the MApplSW University requirements. However, the project may potentially cause participants to critically reflect upon their beliefs, actions and practice, and subsequently causing them to evaluate their own level of competence and effectiveness. Such reflection may lead to improvements in their interactions with sex workers, and their actions as a sex worker advocate as a whole. This may in turn, lead to better outcomes for sex workers.

Agencies and other practitioners who may support, or come in contact with sex workers in varying levels may benefit from this research by gaining a deeper understanding of the ▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮, their role in advocacy, and how they themselves can work to advocate for sex workers.

31	**What discomfort (physical, psychological, social), incapacity or other risk of harm are individual participants likely to experience as a result of participation?**

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There is unlikely to be any harm or discomfort for the participants.
However, it is possible that the interview could unintentionally trigger emotions for the participant. To minimise any potential harm to the participant I will ensure that there is informed consent, voluntary participation and confidentiality of themselves. Should any participants become uncomfortable or distressed, I will offer to terminate the interview, allowing for participant autonomy around this decision, thus minimising any further harm to the participant.

----

32 **Describe the strategies you will use to deal with any of the situations identified above.**
To minimise the risk of triggering emotions in the participants, part of the selection criteria is that participants will not be actively working as sex workers, although it is recognised by the researcher that there is a a possibility that participants may have worked in the industry previously, they will not be required to discuss events relating to their experiences as a sex worker. If the participant becomes uncomfortable or distressed, I would suggest that they might want to use supervision (if accessible) to debrief on the interview, or seek the support of a suitable counsellor. I would also discuss these issues with my supervisor.

33 **What is the risk of harm (if any) of the project to the researcher?**
I do not anticipate there to be any risk of harm to me as the researcher.

----

34 **Describe the strategies you will use to deal with any of the situations identified above.**
There is minimal risk of harm to me as the researcher, however, if I am in any way negatively affected I will discuss this with my supervisor, or seek support from suitable professionals i.e. counselling. There is minimal risk to my physical safety, as interviews will be conducted from home via Skype.

----

35 **What discomfort (physical, psychological, social) incapacity or other risk of harm are groups/communities and institutions likely to experience as a result of this research?**
There is no anticipation of potential harm to Massey University or community organisations.
The researcher will remain honest and transparent with her supervisor throughout the research process.

----

36 **Describe the strategies you will use to deal with any of the situations identified in Q35.**
No individuals will be named in this project, which minimises the potential harm arising from individual participants' comments. If I have any concerns about harm to organisations of the University, I will discuss these with my supervisor.

----

37 **Is ethnicity data being collected as part of the project?**   Yes ☐   No ☒

If yes: i)   will the data be used as a basis for analysis?   **Yes** ☐   **No** ☐

   ii)   **justify this use in terms of the number of participants.**

(Note that harm can be done through an analysis based on insufficient numbers)

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i) justify this approach, given that in some research an analysis based on ethnicity may yield results of value to Maori and to other groups.

The nature of this research project is exploratory and focuses on the perspectives of sex work advocates. The ethnicity of the participants is not the focus of this study. Additionally, the sample size is too small to use ethnicity in the analysis.

SECTION D: INFORMED & VOLUNTARY CONSENT (Refer Code Section 3, Para 11)

38   **By whom and how, will information about the research be given to potential participants?**

Potential participants will initially receive information about the research from the ██. In addition the aim and purpose of the research will be outlined directly to each participant prior to the interview so that they are fully informed about the research project.

39   **Will consent to participate be given in writing?**   Yes [x]   No [ ]

(Attach copies of Consent Form/s to the application form)
If no, justify the use of oral consent.
See appendix 4

40   **Will participants include persons under the age of 16?**   Yes [ ]   No [X]

41   **Will participants include persons whose capacity to give informed consent may be compromised?**   Yes [ ]   No [X]

42   **Will the participants be proficient in English?**   Yes [x]   No [ ]

If no, all documentation for participants (Information Sheets/Consent Forms/Questionnaire etc) must be translated into the participants' first-language.
(Attach copies of the translated Information Sheet/Consent Form etc to the application form)

SECTION E: PRIVACY/CONFIDENTIALITY ISSUES (Refer Code Section 3, Para 12)

43   **Will any information be obtained from any source other than the participant?**   Yes [ ]   No [x]

If yes, describe how and from whom.

44   **Will any information that identifies participants be given to any person outside the research team?**   Yes [ ]   No [x]

If yes, indicate why and how.

45   **Will the participants be anonymous (i.e. their identity unknown to the researcher?)**   Yes [ ]   No [x]

If no, explain how confidentiality of the participants' identities will be maintained in t treatment and use of the data.

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As the researcher will interview participants they will not be able to be anonymous to me
the researcher/interviewer. However, participants' names and identities will not be revea
in the final report. All data relating to this project will be kept in the researcher's home u
the report is graded, after which all the data will be appropriately destroyed.

46 **Will an institution (e.g. school) to which participants belong be**   **Yes** [x]   **No** [ ]
named or be able to be identified?

If yes, explain how you have made the institution aware of this?
As this research is only interviewing members of the ████████████████████████, it
may be obvious in the final report that this is the agency to which the participants have
been recruited from. This will be outlined in the Letter of Invitation to the ████████
███████████, and again in the Information sheet provided to the participants.

47 **Outline how and where:**
i) the data will be stored, and
(Pay particular attention to identifiable data, e.g. tapes, videos and images)
All recorded and printed data relating to this research project will be stored in a locked c
researcher's home. Electronic records and information will be stored on the research
computer and protected by passwords.
ii) Consent Forms will be stored.
(Note that Consent Forms should be stored separately from data)
Consent forms relating to this research project will be stored in a separate locked
cabinet in the researcher's home.

48 **i)**   **Who will have access to the data/Consent Forms?**
The researcher and supervisor.
ii)   **How will the data/Consent Forms be protected from unauthorised access?**
Only the researcher will know the password needed to access electronic records.
All recorded and printed data will be stored in a locked cabinet and will only be accessible
to the researcher.

49 **Describe arrangements you have made for the disposal of the data/Consent Forms**
following the examination of the project.
(For student research the Massey University HOSchool/ or nominee should be responsible for
the eventual disposal of data)(Note that although destruction is the most common form of
disposal, at times, transfer of data to an official archive may be appropriate).
Following the completion of the research the original recordings will be destroyed/deleted
once the researcher has received her grade for the research report. The Head of School of
Social Work or their nominee will dispose of all research data. Any data stored
electronically will be deleted by the researched once the report has been graded.

SECTION F: DECEPTION (Refer Code Section 3, Para 13)

50 **Is deception involved at any stage of the project?**   **Yes** [ ]   **No** [x]
If yes, justify its use and describe the debriefing procedures.

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SECTION G: CONFLICT OF ROLE/INTEREST (Refer Code Section 3, Para 14)

51 **Is the project to be funded in any way from sources external to Massey University?**   Yes ☐   No ☒

   If yes: i)   **state the source.**

   does the source of the funding present any conflict of interest with regard to the research topic?

---

52 **Do you have a financial interest in the outcome of the project?**   Yes ☐   No ☒

   If yes, explain how the conflict of interest situation will be dealt with.

---

53 **Describe any professional or other relationship between the researcher and the participants? (e.g. employer/employee, lecturer/student, practitioner/patient, researcher/family member). Indicate how any resulting conflict of role will be dealt with.**

   The researcher does not expect to have any relationship to the participants. There is no foreseeable conflict of interest, as the researcher has no professional or personal relationship to the ████████████████████████

SECTION H: COMPENSATION TO PARTICIPANTS (Refer Code Section 4, Para 23)

54 **Will any payments or other compensation be given to participants?**   Yes ☐   No ☒

   If yes, describe what, how and why.

   (Note that compensation (if provided) should be given to all participants and not constitute an inducement. Details of any compensation provided must be included in the Information Sheet)

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SECTION I: TREATY OF WAITANGI (Refer Code Section 2)

55   **Are Maori the primary focus of the project?**   **Yes** ☐   **No** ☒

     If yes: **Answer Q56 – 59**

     i)   **what Maori involvement there may be, and**

Some participants may identify themselves as Māori. The researcher would also like to recognise that Indigenous populations in colonised countries are also most often over-represented in the sex worker population, and that in Aotearoa New Zealand, almost two thirds of street-based sex workers identify as Maori, and Maori and Pacific are more likely than other ethnic groups to identify as transgender. With this in mind any research undertaken may be of significance to Māori, and it is hoped it will be of benefit to sex workers of all ethnicities and those that may be involved in decisions or actions affecting their lives.

     ii)   **how this will be managed.**

They will have given informed consent and will choose if they wish to participate. If questions arise regarding ethnicity, it will be discussed with my supervisor.

56   **Is the researcher competent in te reo Maori and tikanga Maori?**   **Yes** ☐   **No** ☐
     If no, outline the processes in place for the provision of cultural advice.

57   **Identify the group/s with whom consultation has taken place or is planned
     and describe the consultation process.**
     *(Where consultation has already taken place, attach a copy of the supporting documentation i
     the application form, e.g. a letter from an iwi authority)*

58   **Describe any ongoing involvement of the group/s consulted in the project.**

59   **Describe how information resulting from the project will be shared with the group/s
     consulted?**

SECTION J: CULTURAL ISSUES (Refer Code Section 3, Para 15)

60   **Other than those issues covered in Section I, are there any aspects of**   **Yes** ☐   **No** ☒
     the project that might raise specific cultural issues?

     If yes, explain. Otherwise, proceed to Section K.

61   **What ethnic or social group/s (other than Maori) does the project involve?**

62   **Does the researcher speak the language of the target population?**   **Yes** ☒   **No** ☐
     If no, specify how communication with participants will be managed.

63   **Describe the cultural competence of the researcher for carrying out the project.**

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(Note that where the researcher is not a member of the cultural group being researched, a cultural advisor may be necessary)

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64   **Identify the group/s with whom consultation has taken place or is planned.**
        (Where consultation has already taken place, attach a copy of the supporting documentation to the application form)

---

65   **Describe any ongoing involvement of the group/s consulted in the project.**

---

66   **Describe how information resulting from the project will be shared with the group/s consulted.**

---

67   **If the research is to be conducted overseas, describe the arrangements you will make for local participants to express concerns regarding the research.**

        n/a

SECTION K: SHARING RESEARCH FINDINGS (Refer Code Section 4, Para 26)

68   **Describe how information resulting from the project will be shared with participants.**
        (Note that receipt of a summary is one of the participant rights)

        A summary of findings will be given to all participants in writing and the report will be offered electronically. In addition, participants may choose to keep a copy of their interview transcript.

SECTION L: INVASIVE PROCEDURES/PHYSIOLOGICAL TESTS (Refer Code Section 4, Para 21) n/a

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SECTION M: DECLARATION (*Complete appropriate box*)

STUDENT RESEARCH
Declaration for Student Applicant
I have read the Code of Ethical Conduct for Research, Teaching and Evaluations involving Human Participants and discussed the ethical analysis with my Supervisor. I understand my obligations and the rights of the participants. I agree to undertake the research as set out in the Code of Ethical Conduct for Research, Teaching and Evaluations involving Human Participants.
The information contained in this application is to the very best of my knowledge accurate and not misleading.

Student's Signature _____ Date: _____

Declaration for Supervisor
I have assisted the student in the ethical analysis of this project.   As supervisor of this research I will ensure that the research is carried out according to the Code of Ethical Conduct for Research, Teaching and Evaluations involving Human Participants.

Supervisor's Signature _____ Date: _____
Print Name _____

TEACHING PROGRAMME
Declaration for Paper Controller
I have read the Code of Ethical Conduct for Research, Teaching and Evaluations involving Human Participants. I understand my obligations and the rights of the participants. I agree to undertake the teaching programme as set out in the Code of Ethical Conduct for Research, Teaching and Evaluations involving Human Participants. My Head of Department/School/Institute knows that I am undertaking this teaching programme. The information contained in this application is to the very best of my knowledge accurate and not misleading.

Paper Co-ordinator's Signature _____ Date: _____

Declaration for Head of School
I declare that to the best of my knowledge, this application complies with the Code of Ethical Conduct for Research, Teaching and Evaluations involving Human Participants and that I have approved its content and agreed that it can be submitted.

Head of School Signature _____ Date: _____

Print Name _____

NOTIFICATION OF LOW RISK RESEARCH

Massey University

Te Kunenga ki Pūrehuroa

NOTIFICATION OF LOW RISK RESEARCH/EVALUATION
INVOLVING HUMAN PARTICIPANTS

==Staff researchers and supervisors are fully responsible for ensuring that the information in this form meets the requirements and guidelines for submission of a Low Risk Notification==

SECTION A:

1. **Project Title**   Sex work advocacy in Aotearoa New Zealand: Advocates' perspectives on effecting positive change.

Projected start date for data collection   01 July 2015   30 Nov 2015
                                                         Projected end date

(Low risk notifications must not be submitted if recruitment and/or data collection has already begun.)

2. **Applicant Details** *(Select one box only and complete details)*

ACADEMIC STAFF NOTIFICATION

Full Name of Staff Applicant/s

School/Department/Institute

Region *(mark one only)*	**Albany**		**Palmerston Nrth**		**Wgtn**	
Telephone	**Email Address**					

STUDENT NOTIFICATION

Full Name of Student Applicant   Kim Sheehan

Postal Address   ███████████████

Telephone	█████████	**Email Address**	███████████████

Employer   N/A

Full Name of Supervisor(s)   Dr Michael Dale

School/Department/Institute   School of Social Work

Region *(mark one only)*	**Albany**		**Palmerston Nrth**	x	**Wgtn**	
Telephone	+646-3569099 ext 83522	**Email Address**	m.p.dale@massey.ac.nz			

GENERAL STAFF NOTIFICATION

Full Name of Applicant

Section

Region *(mark one only)*	**Albany**		Palmerston Nrth		**Wgnt**	
Telephone	**Email Address**					

Full Name of Line Manager

Section

Telephone ------------------------- **Email Address** ---

NOTIFICATION OF LOW RISK RESEARCH

---

3   Type of Project *(provide detail as appropriate)*

Staff Research/Evaluation:		Student Research:		If other, please specify:
Academic Staff		**Name of Qualification**	MApplSW	
General Staff Evaluation		**Credit Value of Research** (e.g. 30, 60, 90, 120, 240, 360)	30	

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4.   **Describe the process that has been used to discuss and analyse the ethical issues present in this project.**

(Please refer to the Low Risk Guidelines on the Massey University Human Ethics Committee website)

The Massey University Code of Ethical Conduct for Research, Teaching and Evaluations involving Human Participants, was first read to ensure that this project would meet the necessary requirements. This application has then been discussed with my research supervisor to consider any ethical issues present in this project. Further recommendations and amendments have been made following its review by two other academic staff from the School of Social Work.

---

5.   **Summary of Project**
      Please outline the following (in no more than 200 words):

      1.   **The purpose of the research, and**

      2.   **The methods you will use.**

(Note: ALL the information provided in the notification is potentially available if a request is made under the Official Information Act. In the event that a request is made, the University, in the first instance, would endeavour to satisfy that request by providing this summary. Please ensure that the language used is comprehensible to all)

The **purpose of the research** is to explore the perspectives of sex work advocates and how they perceive their role, to further understand the intended outcomes of sex work advocacy, the role they play in reducing the stigma of sex work and how advocates effect positive change. It is hoped that these perspectives will provide insight into the current issues faced by sex workers, given the success of having already achieved legislative change with the enactment of the Prostitution Reform Act 2003. This research has the potential to be of interest to a wide range of practitioners, who through the course of their work come in contact with sex workers, encouraging dialogue between members of the greater social work community, which as a result may help give them a greater understanding of any challenges sex workers face, and how best to support them.

A qualitative method utilising semi-structured interviews with three members of the ███████ ██████████████ will be conducted to gain a deeper understanding of the current issues faced by sex workers after decriminalisation from advocates' perspectives. Interviews will be recorded, transcribed and thematically analysed, and a report written of the findings.

Appendix G

NOTIFICATION OF LOW RISK RESEARCH

Please submit this Low Risk Notification (<u>with the completed Screening Questionnaire</u>) as follows:

1. For staff based at either the Palmerston North or Wellington campus; and students whose Chief Supervisor is based at either the Palmerston North or Wellington campus:

External Mailing Address	**Internal Mailing Address**
Ethics Administrator	Ethics Administrator
Research Ethics Office	Research Ethics Office
Massey University	Courtyard Complex, PN221
Private Bag 11222	Turitea
Palmerston North 4442	**Palmerston North**

2. For staff based at the Albany campus and students whose Chief Supervisor is based at the Albany campus:

External Mailing Address	**Internal Mailing Address**
Ethics Administrator	Ethics Administrator
Research Ethics Office	Research Ethics Office
Massey University	Room 3.001B, Level 3
Private Bag 102904	Quadrangle A Building
North Shore City 0745	**Albany Campus**

NOTIFICATION OF LOW RISK RESEARCH

SECTION B: DECLARATION (*Complete appropriate box*)

ACADEMIC STAFF RESEARCH
Declaration for Academic Staff Applicant
I have read the Code of Ethical Conduct for Research, Teaching and Evaluations involving Human Participants. I understand my obligations and the rights of the participants. I agree to undertake the research as set out in the Code of Ethical Conduct for Research, Teaching and Evaluations involving Human Participants. My Head of Department/School/Institute knows that I am undertaking this research. I confirm that this submission meets the requirements set out in the Guidelines for Low Risk Notifications and that the information contained in this notification is to the very best of my knowledge accurate and not misleading.

Staff Applicant's Signature ....   Date: ....

STUDENT RESEARCH
Declaration for Student Applicant
I have read the Code of Ethical Conduct for Research, Teaching and Evaluations involving Human Participants and discussed the ethical analysis with my Supervisor. I understand my obligations and the rights of the participants. I agree to undertake the research as set out in the Code of Ethical Conduct for Research, Teaching and Evaluations involving Human Participants. I confirm that this submission meets the requirements set out in the Guidelines for Low Risk Notifications and that the information contained in this notification is to the very best of my knowledge accurate and not misleading.

Student Applicant's Signature ....   Date: 12/06/2015 ....

Declaration for Supervisor
I have assisted the student in the ethical analysis of this project.   As supervisor of this research I will ensure that the research is carried out according to the Code of Ethical Conduct for Research, Teaching and Evaluations involving Human Participants. I confirm that this submission meets the requirements set out in the Guidelines for Low Risk Notifications.

Supervisor's Signature   ....   Date: ....
Print Name   ....

GENERAL STAFF RESEARCH/EVALUATIONS
Declaration for General Staff Applicant
I have read the Code of Ethical Conduct for Research, Teaching and Evaluations involving Human Participants and discussed the ethical analysis with my Supervisor. I understand my obligations and the rights of the participants. I agree to undertake the research as set out in the Code of Ethical Conduct for Research, Teaching and Evaluations involving Human Participants. I confirm that this submission meets the requirements set out in the Guidelines for Low Risk Notifications and that the information contained in this notification is to the very best of my knowledge accurate and not misleading.

General Staff Applicant's Signature   ---   Date: ----------------------------------

Declaration for Line Manager
I declare that to the best of my knowledge, this notification complies with the Code of Ethical Conduct for Research, Teaching and Evaluations involving Human Participants and that I have approved its content and agreed that it can be submitted.

Line Manager's Signature ....   Date: ....
Print Name   ....

Appendix H

SCREENING QUESTIONNAIRE

Massey University

Kim Sheehan

Sex work advocacy in Aotearoa New Zealand: Advocates' perspectives on effecting positive change

students for the demonstration of procedures or phenomena which have a potential for harm.

Appendix H

SCREENING QUESTIONNAIRE

Informed and Voluntary Consent

10. Participants whose identity is known to the researcher giving oral consent rather than written consent (if participants are anonymous you may answer No).

SCREENING QUESTIONNAIRE

Part B

FOR PROPOSED HEALTH AND DISABILITY RESEARCH ONLY

Not all health and disability research requires review by a Health and Disability Ethics Committee (HDEC).

Your study is likely to require HDEC review if it involves:
- human participants recruited in their capacity as:
  o consumers of health or disability support services; or
  o relatives or caregivers of such consumers; or
  o volunteers in clinical trials; or
- human tissue; or
- health information.

In order to establish whether or not HDEC review is required: (i) read the Massey University Digest of the HDEC Scope of Review standard operating procedure; (ii) work through the 'Does your study require HDEC review?' flowchart; and (iii) answer Question 24 below.

If you are still unsure whether your project requires HDEC approval, please email the Ministry of Health for advice (hdecs@moh.govt.nz) and keep a copy of the response for your records.

24. Is HDEC review required for this study?	⬭

ms-and-procedures.cfm

ACCEPTANCE LETTER

MASSEY UNIVERSITY
ALBANY

24 June 2015

Kim Sheehan

██████████████

Dear Kim

Re: Sex work advocacy in Aotearoa New Zealand: Advocates perspectives on effecting positive change

Thank you for your Low Risk Notification which was received on 17 June 2015.

Your project has been recorded on the Low Risk Database which is reported in the Annual Report of the Massey University Human Ethics Committees.

You are reminded that staff researchers and supervisors are fully responsible for ensuring that the information in the low risk notification has met the requirements and guidelines for submission of a low risk notification.

The low risk notification for this project is valid for a maximum of three years.

Please notify me if situations subsequently occur which cause you to reconsider your initial ethical analysis that it is safe to proceed without approval by one of the University's Human Ethics Committees.

Please note that travel undertaken by students must be approved by the supervisor and the relevant Pro Vice-Chancellor and be in accordance with the Policy and Procedures for Course-Related Student Travel Overseas. In addition, the supervisor must advise the University's Insurance Officer.

A reminder to include the following statement on all public documents:

"This project has been evaluated by peer review and judged to be low risk. Consequently, it has not been reviewed by one of the University's Human Ethics Committees. The researcher(s) named above are responsible for the ethical conduct of this research.

If you have any concerns about the conduct of this research that you wish to raise with someone other than the researcher(s), please contact Dr Brian Finch, Director (Research Ethics), telephone 06 356 9099, extn 86015, e-mail humanethics@massey.ac.nz".

Please note that if a sponsoring organisation, funding authority or a journal in which you wish to publish requires evidence of committee approval (with an approval number), you will have to provide a full application to one of the University's Human Ethics Committees. You should also note that such an approval can only be provided prior to the commencement of the research.

Yours sincerely

Brian T Finch (Dr)
**Chair, Human Ethics Chairs' Committee and
Director (Research Ethics)**

cc   Dr Michael Dale   Associate Professor Kieran O'Donaghue
        School of Social Work   Head of School of Social Work
        Palmerston North   **Palmerston North**

**Massey University Human Ethics Committee
Accredited by the Health Research Council**

Appendix J

RESEARCH PROCEDURE FLOW CHART

Email the National Co-Ordinator of the ████████████ ████████████ asking if they would forward on a letter of invitation to participate in the research project.

Request denied

Request accepted

Discuss next step with supervisor

████████ forwards letter of invitations to all suitable members of the ██████

Interested participants will contact the researcher directly

Accept the first three participants who meet the participatory criteria

Unsuccessful participants will be notified by email or phone

Contact to arrange interview time with successful participants

Consent forms signed, interviews conducted, then transcribed, a copy is sent to participant for review

No amendments necessary

Make amendments

Send thank you letters to participants

Use transcripts to write report

Send letter to participants with summary of results and instruction as to how to access the final research report