

SEX WORKERS SPEAK ABOUT THEIR FEMALE CLIENTS

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Body max 300w

Political, moral and academic debates about the sex industry are increasingly addressing clients of sexual services, who are typically considered to be male. Despite growing media and marketing of sex to women there is little scholarly evidence that women buy sex. This study sets out to explore the phenomenon of women buying sex to address the empirical shortfalls and will inform and challenge theoretical perspectives such as heteronormative female roles, regarding gender, sexuality and power.

The study is a qualitative project using semi-structured, in-depth interviews with at least 25 key informants who are sex workers, peer service providers for sex workers, or opinion leaders and will follow with at least 25 women who have bought sex in Australia. Advertising for recruitment led self-selecting key informants to volunteer for 30 minute telephone interviews regarding their knowledge about women who buy sex in Australia. Recruitment of key informants is continuing through contact with sex worker organisations such as Sex Worker Outreach Projects and Scarlet Alliance and is being promoted through social media. Data generated from interviews with sex workers was analysed using a grounded theory approach.

Preliminary results highlight the diversity of female clients, and variations in rates of access for different types of sexual services. Sex workers spoke about the motivations of women to buy sex, and the specific behavioral, language and cultural differences between genders of clients.

These initial findings make clear that gender based descriptions of the sex industry do not address diversity in workers or clients.

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