

RED

a magazine
for the sex
industry



RED #14 a magazine from Resourcing Health & Education (RhED) in the Sex Industry

杂志《红》第13期，性行业健康教育资源中心(RhED)出版

RED #14 성산업 보건및교육제공기관 (RhED) 잡지

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ในอุตสาหกรรมประเวณี

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Editorial

Dear Readers,

Well, have we got a lot in store for you in this packed RED edition!

We have our regular articles such as Trade and Media talk, all very interesting.

Under the umbrella of health and education we have an article debating the relevance of monthly STI testing for industry workers and if it is, from a public health and a personal worker perspective actually necessary. You can decide based on what you read. We have nutrition tips for healthy body healthy mind and an article relating to drug use, in this edition the use of methamphetamine and its effect on sexual desire. Additionally we have an informative article on Bondage and Discipline and the health and safety measures that should be incorporated if you are a B & D practitioner.

In relation to workplace issues, we have included an article from Consumer Affairs Victoria (CAV), clarifying their role in the regulation of the brothel industry – detailing the powers

they have when they visit your brothel. Another article of interest around Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) is around working alone and the considerations and strategies you need to put in place when working alone.

We have included a fascinating contribution to the RED magazine called 'The Migrant Myth' which challenges some of the current debates played out in the media and beyond about migrant sex workers. Another exciting inclusion in this magazine is a contributor's response to a previous reader contribution about running a brothel and what the original owner perceived was required. The current article challenges some of the stereotypes referred to in the original article, which was published in our previous edition. It is exciting for the RhED team to see and experience this kind of debate and be the medium through which it can be voiced. So, keep those contributions coming, they add true value to our publication.

Anyway, enjoy the read,
Play safe, work safe and stay safe
Molly

Conditions of participating in the SMILEY FACES project

Smiley Faces

It has come to RhED's attention that some brothels that have been awarded a Smiley Face are not allowing their service providers access to materials that RhED delivers. Additionally, some brothels are not allowing access to RhED workers.

The Smiley Faces project recognises the partnerships RhED has with management and is a way of providing service providers – local, interstate and overseas – with an easily identifiable list of brothels that recognise such partnerships. If you have any queries or wish for clarification of the above, please do not hesitate to telephone RhED on 1800 458 752.

To be awarded a SMILEY FACE:

- A brothel establishment must allow its workers access to RhED services.
- This includes interaction between RhED staff and brothel workers in your establishment.
- It includes allowing workers access to RhED resources, including the RED magazine.

If it comes to the attention of the RhED team that any of these conditions are not being adhered to by a brothel, the brothel will receive a courtesy letter inviting you to call us to discuss your ongoing membership.

Failure to respond to this letter will result in the removal of your SMILEY FACE status in the magazine listing.

Remember, the team offers:

- Up to date information for the industry
- STI workshops
- STI information
- STI resources
- Information translated into relevant community languages
- Linkages to sex industry friendly accountants and financial institutions
- Information and resources for owners, managers and workers through confidential face-to-face and/or telephone services

We believe it is important to recognise those who continue to access our program as a way of maintaining industry standards. A SMILEY FACE indicates your participation in the program.



Trade talk

**Freecall RhED on 1800 45 87 52
10am-5pm for information, support,
referral or just to have a chat.**

Smiley Faces

Westminster Secrets has joined the Smiley Faces Project

Brothel changes

Cromwell Heights – closed

Mischief – closed

New

Red Light Relaxation Centre

Clayton 9543 8820

PCA 5531B

New Sections in the Listings

RhED has opened two new sections in the Listings to include male and transgender brothels and to include Male to Female service providers.

VOX POP – Prostitution Control Act Review

RhED outreach workers continue to distribute the VOX POP to workers, managers and owners. Too often the industry says it does not have a voice and this is an opportunity to contribute to amendments to the very laws that you work under and that control the work that you do (ie Prostitution Control Act 1994). So far the response has been excellent and we will continue to distribute and gather feedback using the VOX POP until October 2008. We are grateful to those people who are responding with their comments. If you would like to participate and have not done so yet, please ring us on 1800 458 752 and we will organise forms for you to complete. All participant details are voluntary and if given, confidential.

ID Cards

As you know, RhED staff members visit every brothel in Victoria at least twice a year. Please note that we all wear identification for Inner South Community Health Service while we are out, and you can feel free to ask for us to show this ID when we visit your establishment.

We heard recently that some establishments are receiving requests from students and other researchers wanting to interview sex workers. It's great that research is going into the sex industry. This can only continue to educate the wider community and remove the stigma, myths and barriers that surround the industry. Research provides accurate and unbiased data and information, it also identifies areas where legislation can be improved. If you have any requests from people wanting to do research, or any requests that you're not sure about, please feel free to refer those individuals on to RhED – we're happy to assess research applications.

Approved Managers reference group

RhED will continue to advertise this group despite the low response from the industry. Again, this is an opportunity to share ideas and discuss the many facets of working in the sex industry. Please read carefully the information on page 24.

Sex worker reference group – Red Rendezvous

At an earlier meeting in the year, the group met and had a lively time at a city venue with lots of refreshments. At that time, it was decided to rename the group Red Rendezvous and also commence an e-list that people can keep in touch with each other. Look on the inside back cover for more information. If you are interested in being part of this group, telephone Gabby on 1800 458 752.

LIP Review

STOP PRESS any day now!

Where are you now?

Check out the new column entitled 'Where are you now'. We have had two enquiries from people in the industry wanting to catch up with old acquaintances. Ring 1800 458 752 if you wish to participate.

New worker training for male sex workers

RhED has a training workshop for male sex workers who work with male clients entering the industry. The training has been put together by a sex worker and covers the following topics:

- Legal prerequisites of sex work
- Fundamental sex worker knowledge and skills
- Sexually transmissible infections
- Safety principles
- Feeling good about sex work

Participants receive a free "safe sex worker pack" and the opportunity to ask any questions about sex work they may have. To book in a time for the workshop telephone Christian on 1800 458 752.

Myth or Truth correction

RhED wishes to advise that an error appeared in the Myth or Truth? article in RED#13. The article Myth or Truth? included the following:

"Should: owners threaten sex workers with prosecution by the police if sex workers work at other places or if they see clients outside of work?"

Answer: The police will not prosecute. Sex workers are independent contractors who can work for whom they like and when they like."

RhED wishes to advise that the following inclusion applies: "Please keep in mind that to work privately you must register with the Business Licensing Authority."

Media talk

**Freecall RhED on 1800 45 87 52
10am-5pm for information, support,
referral or just to have a chat.**

College students explore legal brothel during field trip

Nicki Amouri was one of a dozen Randolph College students who toured the Chicken Ranch, a legal bordello in the desert nr Las Vegas. "We're always open to trying to educate the public about legalized prostitution," said chicken Ranch general manager Debbie Rivenburgh, who acknowledged this was the first class tour request she'd received in 21 years. Nevada is the only state where prostitution is legal. Brothels are allowed in 10 Nevada counties, though not in Las Vegas. (Kathleen Hennessey, Associated Press, 13/4/08)

Education and Understanding: the key to acceptance

When one thinks of sex workers one thinks of the stereotypical drug dependant, hard luck story coupled with a liberal neon red splash of low self esteem and a broken childhood. Throughout the course of my investigation I found that this is not always the case.

I began my journey of discovery by talking to a variety of people involved in the industry, in one way or another. From these discussions I was able to gain an informed opinion based on facts straight from those who know it best not from people with ulterior motives or ideals like the church, the media and the government.

So, why is it that in this day and age sex workers are held in such low esteem?

"Basically people discriminate against sex workers because what we do makes them uncomfortable to think about, and they can't imagine that there's anyone who is comfortable with it the way that we are, says "Shelle", sex worker of 11 years.

We are counsellors concerned for the physical, sexual and mental wellbeing of those who come to see us. We take a holistic approach to the way we do business," she says.

"We provide society with a service just like any other business owner and we do a bloody good job of it. Unfortunately for us though, people don't see it that way. (Tracey Walsh, Sydney Star Observer 15/11/07).

I pay a man for regular sex

In the UK, every month for three years I have spent up to 600 pounds on Justin, who makes me a calmer and happier person. I'm sure I'm not the only person who hides such a guilty secret, and I'm equally sure that anyone in my position would guard it as ferociously as I do.

This arrangement has worked very well for me for the past three years and I hope it continues. My ex-husband and I had a great sex life, so when our marriage ended, I decided to go online and see if anyone out there could fill the gap. Justin costs 200 pound for an hour and every penny is well spent.

He makes me feel that I'm the centre of attention, he's very protective and caring, we have a laugh and a chat and the sex gets better and better. He always makes it special with candles and things. How many men would still be doing that after three years in an ordinary relationship?

This way I'm very satisfied sexually, which makes me a much calmer and happier person, and I do like the secrecy element of this arrangement. I keep both lives totally separate and Justin doesn't know where I live, what I do or even my real surname. I get a real buzz out of my elegant, controlled image and the fact that no one knows I've got a secret side – one that would shock everyone. (The Times, UK 5/12/07)

Justin costs 200 pounds for an hour and every penny is well spent

Heels lift women's sex life

Stilettoes can be good for a woman's sex life. A study from the University of Verona, Italy has discovered that wearing a pair of 'moderately high heeled shoes' has beneficial effects for a woman's sex life. It would seem that the heels work the pelvic

muscles and reduce the need to exercise them. The tests showed that women's pelvic muscles were more relaxed in higher heels and increased their strength and ability to contract. The study claims that wearing stilettoes "directly works the pleasure muscles linked to orgasm". (MX News 4/2/08)

Nursing home fuels Danish debate over prostitution

When a male resident at Kildegaarden nursing home in Denmark made an indecent sexual proposal to a member of the staff, the home's director, Inger Marie Kristensen, told a nurse to telephone for a prostitute.

"There was a considerable change in his demeanour after the escort girl had paid him a visit," Kristensen said in an interview. "We do this for our clients just as we offer them other services that they need as human beings."

Kildegaarden, located 100 miles west of Copenhagen in Skanderborg, has about 100 residents, including victims of Alzheimer's disease and strokes. Nurses arranged visits by call girls three times in the past three years.

While Welfare Minister Karen Jespersen says Denmark's 98 municipalities are free to let nurses call prostitutes, some lawmakers are stepping up efforts to pull women out of the profession, which has been legal in the country since 1999.

"I don't want to contribute to keeping this industry in business," said Mie Bergmann, an elected official with the Social-Liberal Party in Skanderborg, who led a failed vote to end prostitution at Kildegaarden.

Denmark is doubling spending to 80 million kroner (\$17 million) over the next three years to get women out of the sex trade. The government estimates that 6,000 women work in the profession in the Scandinavian country of 5.5 million. (Bloomberg News 14/5/08)

Three minute sex 'adequate' experts

The best sex should last between seven and 13 minutes, and even three-minute sex is "adequate", a major survey of US experts has concluded.



Media talk

But, Australian sex therapists commenting on the new research say most men "down under" wanted it to last considerably longer while most women were "not bothered" if it was over with fast.

Intercourse lasting between three and seven minutes was deemed "adequate", but anything less was "too short" and beyond 13 minutes "too long".

The study, published in the international *Journal of Sexual Medicine*, is designed to help calm couples' unrealistic beliefs that healthy sex should last a long time. (news.ninemsn 5/3/08)

Circumcision doesn't stop STI's

Circumcision does not appear to shield men from the types of sexually transmissible infections (STIs) common in the developed world, according to new research from New Zealand. While there is "compelling evidence" that circumcision protects men from contracting HIV through sex with women, it is unclear whether circumcised men are at lower risk of other types of STIs, Nigel P. Dickson and colleagues note in their report in the *Journal of Paediatrics*. The researchers followed 499 men born in 1972 and 1973 up to the age 32. Among the circumcised men, 23.4 percent reported having had any type of STI by age 32, compared to 23.5 percent of the uncircumcised men. The most common STIs reported were genital warts, Chlamydia and genital herpes. (Herald Sun Reuters 20/3/08)

Aussies among most undersexed

Australia is among the world's most undersexed nations – but Australia still outperforms the Yanks and the Brits, according to a global survey. About 60 percent of Australians have weekly sex, making Aussies the sixth-least sexed nationalities on Earth, the Durex Sexual Wellbeing study – which polled 26,000 people – found.

The survey also found while the majority of the world's population saw sex as "fun, enjoyable and a vital part of life" relatively few people were satisfied. (Herald Sun 3/3/08)

Bank tells staff: no more sex on expenses

Deutsche Bank, Germany's largest, has been hit by the global credit crunch so badly that it has issued a memorandum to senior executives telling them that brothel visits and adult channels in hotel rooms cannot be claimed on expenses.

It says the directive was aimed at 800 workers in the banks communications and social responsibility department, but variations have been sent to all workers. The memo further warns that the bank's credit cards must not be used for such purposes.

"In the good old days, you could pass off a trip to a knocking-shop as a restaurant if the names wasn't too obvious. But we're in an uptight, locked down new Puritanism now, not helped by the sub-prime. (Berlin Independent 23/5/08)

Chastity-belt policy rubs some wrong way

Chastity belts are making a comeback in the massage parlors of East Java.

Eager to prevent hanky-panky between masseuses and their clients, Franky Setiawan, owner of Doghado Massage Parlor, said he came up with the idea when men "bombarded" his staff with demands for sex after local authorities shut down the towns brothels.

When a customer arrives for a massage, which takes place in a private room behind a cloth curtain, the "cashier calls one masseuse, asks her to prepare things and locks her pants". (Columbus Dispatch 28/4/08)

Only those good in the sack need apply

A lobby group for brothel owners in Sydney, Australia, demanded a skilled migration stream for foreign sex workers because Australia's booming economy needs more sex workers just like it needs more doctors, plumbers and welders. "We're seeking a human rights approach to labour migration generally, so that any labour migration policy can include a non discriminatory approach to sex workers as well," Scarlet Alliance spokesperson Elena Jeffreys told national broadcaster ABC. Immigration officials have already rejected the proposal, saying that sex workers did not qualify for working visas because their level of skill was too low. (Cape Times 30/4/08)

Empowered from Toorak: a new view of sex workers

A survey of almost 100 women working in legal brothels across Victoria provides a rare insight into the lives of sex workers that may confound the stereotypes associated with the world's oldest profession. They live in Toorak, Armadale and Brighton, have children and relationships, a good education and goals. "People tend to say, 'Oh, they don't live in our area'," says Jan Groves, a health education and support worker from the Inner South Community Health Service who led the survey, which covered 38 of the state's licensed brothels. Among the findings, published in the *British*

Many had chosen the occupation after being attracted by the flexibility and financial rewards it offered.

Medical Journal's Sexually Transmitted Infections, half of the women had dependent children and a third were in a relationship. A third had completed university or some other form of training and 12% were studying. Many had chosen the occupation after being attracted by the flexibility and financial rewards it offered. More than a third were worried about maintaining their anonymity. More than 20% were worried about their families finding out about their work and rejecting them. Study co-author Christopher Fairley, director of the Melbourne Sexual Health Centre, hoped the survey would counter prejudice faced by sex workers. "Sex workers are not like the community may imagine them to be, they are just ordinary Australians," he said. (The Sunday Age 6/7/08)

Christian@Escape



Since discussions of sex worker rights have began there is one thing that can be clearly and irrefutably demanded for sex workers: Safe Space. This can take on a number of meanings: a space where sex workers are free of the stigma and discrimination that they face everyday, a space where sex workers can freely express themselves without fear, a space where sex workers can go to be just like everyone else.

Escape is an event that has been put together to be such a space. It is an ordinary event held at an ordinary nightclub with one difference: the patrons are all workers in the adult entertainment industry. Escorts can mingle with strippers; private workers can dance with receptionists; Brothel workers can share a drink with dominatrices. The education and social support was amazing to observe. Everyone was sharing trade tips, demystifying our respective work environments and teaching each other what its like to do the work that we do. I think everyone there found it a very worthwhile and much needed space in which to participate. Watching everyone interact with each other I couldn't help but feel a strong sense of community here.

The event has been put together thoughtfully with careful considerations paid to people invited to attend. Staff at the premises has been briefed around non-stigmatising behaviour and security are accustomed to working in the adult entertainment industry. Both are trained to identify and manage behaviour that threatens the safety and sustainability of the space (eg: poaching, standover tactics, etc.). Management promises absolute privacy with no public entry and no photographic equipment allowed.

If you've ever felt that isolated and alone, like you couldn't connect with anyone and the whole world doesn't accept you there is a place for you. Escape welcomes all sex workers no matter what you look like or how you work.

Escape has had to cease operation recently due the closure of the venue that was hosting it. The team behind the event are currently looking at other options. If you think you can help out, contact Christian at RhED on 1800 458 752. Otherwise, we'll keep you posted.



Carolyn Mogharbel

Health Education and Support Worker, Migrant Sex Worker Portfolio

Carolyn Mogharbel is the newest member of our team, taking on the role of Health Education and Support Worker with the Migrant Sex Worker Portfolio. Her role involves resourcing the RhED team with translated materials, referral agencies and information relating to migrant sex workers – on top of other duties such as visiting brothels and providing outreach and drop-in services.

Coming from a background in public health and community development, Carolyn has worked both overseas and in Australia. Her experience in HIV and STI awareness, peer education, outreach and community arts give her a good grounding to learn all the ropes here at RhED.

Carolyn is already enjoying her role here at RhED. Many of you may have already met her on outreach or in the office. As the member of the team with the Migrant Sex Worker portfolio, Carolyn is happy to work with you in any way that she can. Carolyn is the central contact point for Victoria regarding the issues around migrant sex workers, and sex workers from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. If you are interested in any information – health, legal or community – in other languages, or regarding migrant or culturally and linguistically diverse sex workers, please feel free to contact her at any time on 1800 458 752.



Pic: Geisha in Bath, Masami Teraoka

Where are you now?



Alfie is looking to catch up with girls who worked at

Paris in Spencer Street
Mermaid's Cave
No 4 Yarra Street

My name is Liz (ex Bambras), would love to catch up with anyone from those days.

If you want to make contact with Alfie or Liz, ring RhED and leave your name and number which we will pass on to them and they will then call you.

Please call Carolyn, Christian, Jan, Gabby, Sandra on Freecall 1800 45 87 52 to leave details of the friend you are looking for.



CLIENT EDUCATION

Testicular Self Examination (TSE)

Why do testicular self examination?

Testicular Self Examination is an important yet simple technique that can help detect changes in the testes that may be caused by cancer or other problems.

Finding these changes early can mean more successful treatment. Abnormal lumps or swellings in the testes may sometimes indicate cancer. Testicular cancer, although rare, is the most common type of cancer found in men between 15 and 34 years of age. A history of undescended testes (the testicle not sitting down in the scrotum) is a known risk factor for developing testicular cancer. Testicular Self Examination is easy to do and all men should learn to do this. It only takes a minute every month to regularly check your testes.

What to look for when performing testicular self examination

The best time to perform TSE is during or just after a warm shower or warm bath. Fingers can glide over soapy or moist skin making it easy to concentrate on the texture underneath. The warmth causes the skin to relax making the examination easier.

Examine each testicle separately with both hands.

Roll the testicle gently between the thumb and fingers – you shouldn't feel any pain when doing the examination. Don't panic if one testicle seems slightly larger than the other, that's normal.

Using your thumb and fingers find the epididymis, the soft tubular structure behind the testicle that collects and carries sperm. Cancerous lumps may be found on the sides of the testicle but can also occur on the front.

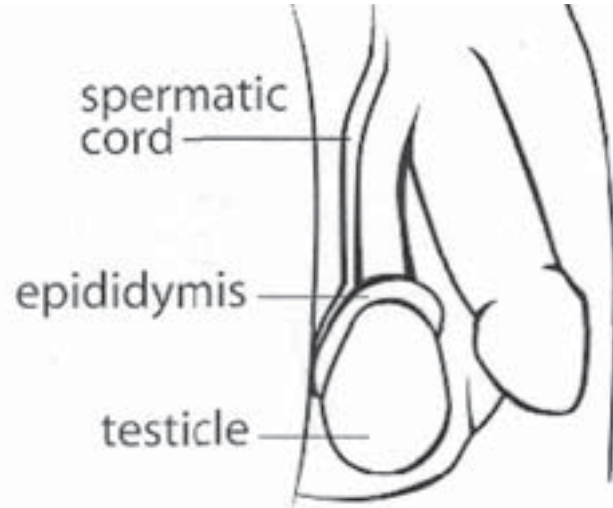
Lumps on the epididymis are not usually anything to be worried about.

If you find a lump on your testicle see a doctor right away. The abnormality may not be cancer; but if it is testicular cancer, it will spread if it is not treated.

Waiting and hoping will not make it go away. When in doubt get it checked out – if only for peace of mind.

Some other signs of testicular cancer to keep in mind are:

- Any enlargement of a testicle
- A shrinkage or loss of size in one of the testicles
- A feeling of heaviness in the scrotum
- A dull ache in the lower abdomen or groin
- A sudden collection of fluid in the scrotum
- Testicular or scrotal pain or discomfort
- Breast tenderness or enlargement



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The TCRC Self Examination Page

<http://tcrc.acor.org/tcexam.html>

How to Perform a Testicular Self-Examination

http://www.kidshealth.org/teen/sexual_health/guys/tse.html

Testicular Self Examination Family Planning Victoria

Melbourne Sexual Health Centre: This fact sheet is designed to provide you with information on Testicular Self Examination. It is not intended to replace the need for a consultation with your doctor. All clients are strongly advised to check with their doctor about any specific questions or concerns they may have. Every effort has been taken to ensure that the information is correct at the time of printing.



Why monthly regulated STI testing of sex workers should be reduced to three monthly

The current regulation for Victoria stipulates that sex workers should have tests for sexually transmitted infections (swabs) every month and blood tests every three months.

The definition of sexually transmitted infections in the Act includes the following infections or conditions:

- Genital and anal herpes (when lesions are visible)
- Genital and anal warts (when lesions are visible)
- Chlamydia trachomatis
- Neisseria gonorrhoea
- Infectious syphilis
- HIV
- Chancroid
- Lymphogranuloma venereum
- Donovanosis

Testing under the Act is defined as monthly examinations to exclude visible anal or genital warts and anal or herpes lesions, genital swabs for *C. trachomatis*, *N. gonorrhoea* and quarterly blood specimens for HIV and syphilis. (Lymphogranuloma venereum, donovanosis and chancroid are rarely seen in Victoria)

We would like to put forward the case that the monthly requirement for swabs should be extended to three months, in line with the requirement for blood tests. The basis of our argument for extending the period of time from one month to three months is based on scientific data that show;

- The health benefit to the women from monthly testing is negligible
- The cost to the community from excessively frequent tests is substantial
- Monthly testing provides no health benefit to the Victorian public
- The cost and time commitment to the women for monthly testing seen as punitive



Pic: Rui Assubuji