

20 years on: Changes in Chinese and Thai female sex worker demographics and sexual health in Sydney

Prepared by
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On behalf of
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- DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST STATEMENT: No conflict of interest

Background

Australia and Sex Work Laws

- Prohibition
- Licensing
- Decriminalised



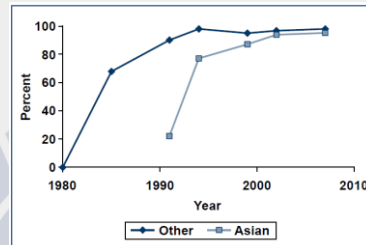
	Criminalised	Licensed ('legalised')	Decriminalised
Jurisdiction (year of change)	WA, SA, NT, Tas [Red square]	Vic (1984) Qld (1992) [Green square]	ACT (1992) NSW (1995) NZ (2003) [Blue square]
Proportion of sex workers operating illegally	>80% (typically, only private or escort work is not illegal)	Vic ~50% Qld ~90% (inc. unlicensed brothels and street workers)	<2% (street workers in the wrong location)
Corruption potential	Police	Police Local government Medical	Local government

Law and Sex Worker Health Report Donovan et al. 2012



Background

Discrepancies in healthcare in culturally and linguistically diverse sex workers



Proportion of Asian and non-Asian brothel-based sex workers in Sydney that report condom use for vaginal and anal sex with all clients, 1980 – 2007



Health Promotion Project



- Establish surveillance
- Inform public policy
- Support sex worker



Background

- Previous studies in 1993 and 2003

Article Vulnerable People

Demographic, migration status, and work-related changes in Asian female sex workers surveyed in Sydney, 1993 and 2003

C. Pell, J. Dabhadatta, C. Harcourt, K. Tribe
Sydney Sexual Health Centre, Sydney Hospital, New South Wales

C. O'Connor
Central Sydney Sexual Health Service, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, New South Wales, and School of Public Health, University of Sydney, New South Wales

Abstract

Objective: To compare demography, social health awareness, migration and workplace conditions of Asian female sex workers in Sydney in 1993 and 2003.
Method: A Chinese interpreter and a Thai-

Pell C et al. Demographic, migration status and work related changes in Asian female sex workers surveyed in Sydney, 1993 and 2003 *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health* 2006; 30:157-162



Aim

To establish if there are further changes in demographics and safe sex practices of culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) sex workers in Sydney compared to 1993 and 2003

Methodology

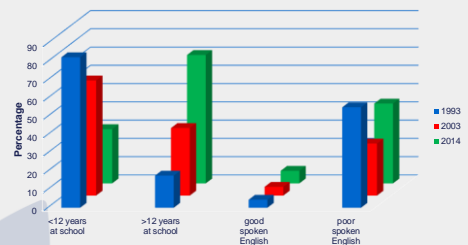
- Cross sectional survey
- Chinese and Thai speaking sex workers recruited from parlours and those attending Sydney Sexual Health Clinic
- Translated surveys
- Themes:
 - Demographics
 - Migration
 - Condom use

Results

	1993	2003	2014
No. of participants	N=91	N=165	N= 467
Language			
- Thai	75%	42%	57%
- Chinese	25%	58%	43%
Median age (range)	26 years (18-43)	33 years (20-53)	31 years (18-57)

- Demographics - Detailed demographics for 2014 comparing Thai to Chinese and outreach to clinic settings are presented in poster # 14.24

Schooling and Spoken English



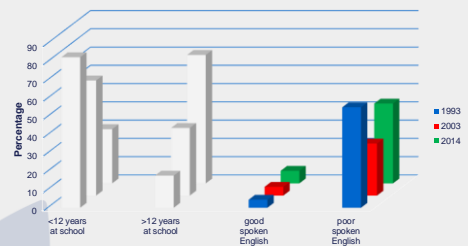
	1993 n (%)	2003 n (%)	2014 n (%)	% Change 1993 to 2003	p value	% change 2003 to 2014	p value
<12 years school	74 (82)	102 (63)	121 (30)	-23	<0.001	-25	<0.001
>12 years school	12 (18)	61 (37)	284 (70)	+106	<0.001	+89	<0.001
Poor English	50 (55)	47 (29)	190 (48)	-48	<0.001	+66	<0.001

Schooling and Spoken English

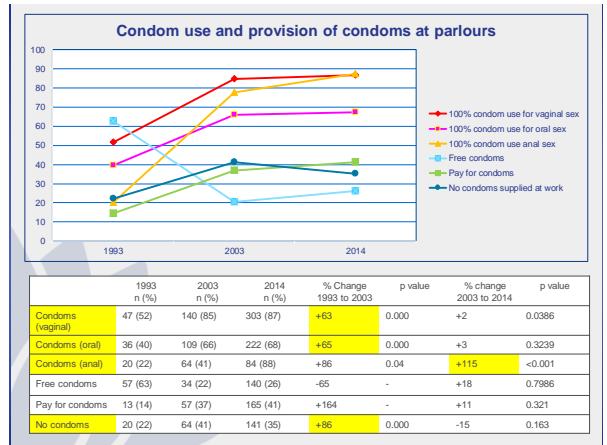
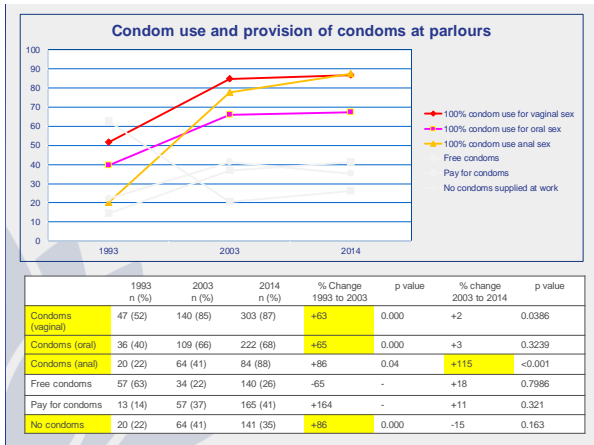
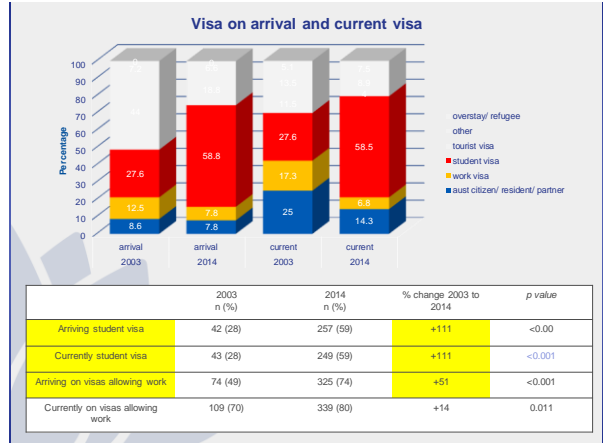
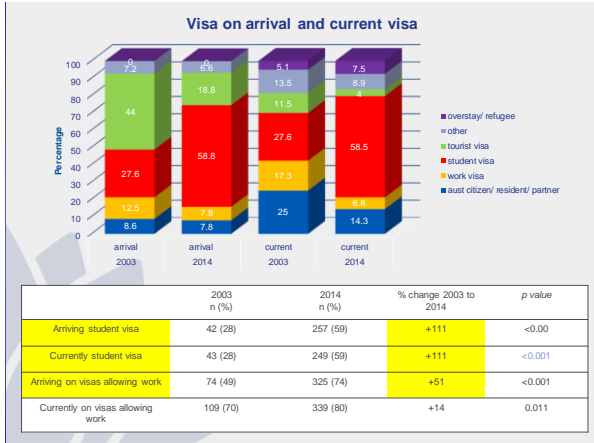
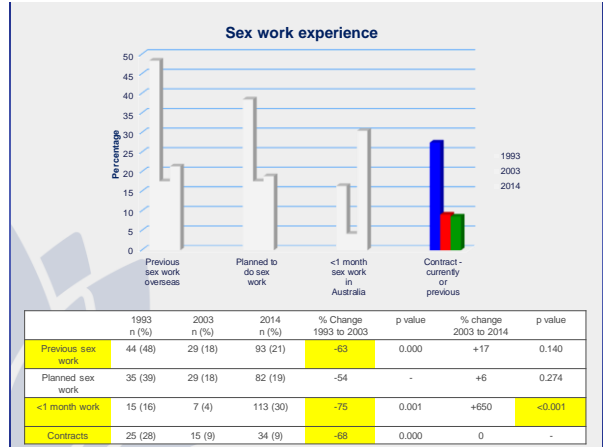
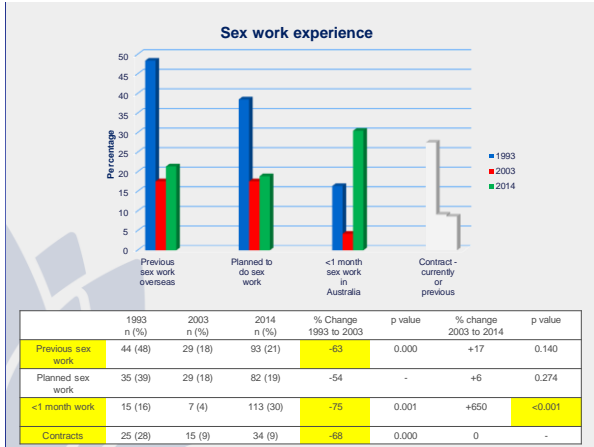


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Discussion

- Positive directions
 - ↑ levels of education
 - Continued ↓ in numbers of workers on contracts
 - Increasing proportion obtaining and maintaining visas which allow work
 - Ongoing upward trend in consistent condom use for all types of sex

Discussion

- Health promotion focus
 - Language barriers to negotiate risk
 - Delivery of health services and education in 'mother tongue' languages
 - Orientation to local health work and safety legislation
 - Collaboration with workplaces to improve working conditions

Acknowledgements

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- Birdie Thirapat – Thai Health Promotion Officer
- Maggie Ma – Chinese Health Promotion Officer

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