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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Prepared by

DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST STATEMENT: No conflict of interest

Background

Australia and Sex Work Laws

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Jurisdiction (year of change)</th>
<th>Categorised</th>
<th>Licensed (legalised)</th>
<th>Decriminalised</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WA, SA, NT, Tas</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victoria</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSW, ACT, Qld, Vic (1912)</td>
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<tr>
<td>NSW, Qld, Vic (1920)</td>
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<tr>
<td>NSW, Vic (1932)</td>
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<tr>
<td>NSW, Vic (1935)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>NSW, Vic (1939)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Discrepancies in healthcare in culturally and linguistically diverse sex workers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>1980</th>
<th>1990</th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Precnt</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td></td>
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Health Promotion Project

- Establish surveillance
- Inform public policy
- Support sex worker

Previous studies in 1993 and 2003

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

C. Pell, J. Delbakhshian, C. Remouet, K. Trife
Avalon Sexual Health Centre, Sydney, Office, New South Wales

C. O’Connor
Avalon Sexual Health Centre, Sydney, Office, New South Wales, and School of Public Health, University of Sydney, New South Wales

Abstract

Background

- Previous studies in 1993 and 2003
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1993</th>
<th>2003</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No. of participants</td>
<td>N=91</td>
<td>N=165</td>
<td>N=467</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thai</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinese</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median age (range)</td>
<td>26 years (18-43)</td>
<td>33 years (20-53)</td>
<td>31 years (18-57)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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

- **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

- Participants who contributed their time and shared their experiences
- Birdie Thirapat – Thai Health Promotion Officer
- Maggie Ma – Chinese Health Promotion Officer

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