

The Online Safety Bill poses a unique threat to the livelihood of sex workers around Australia. Under the guise of “protecting” Australians from sexual content, this paternalistic legislation creates the possibility to demonise all sexual content and its hard-working creators.

The affect is complex:

Firstly, creating a law whereby sex workers’ advertisements and other platforms can be removed from the internet easily makes it impossible for sex workers to engage in lawful, consensual work. The internet is where we advertise, create revenue streams, attract new clientele, and network with one another. It is essential to our health, safety, and careers. The Online Safety Bill would create a discriminatory system whereby consensually explicit material and its creators could be constituted as harmful, when this is not the case.

Secondly, demonising and outlawing sexually explicit content – particularly consensual material – further stigmatises sexual expression as unhealthy and unlawful. Human sexuality is completely natural, healthy and contributes greatly to a person’s health and wellbeing. Numerous studies show that sexual repression is detrimental to a person’s confidence, health and their relationships.

Essentially, the Online Safety Bill is arcane and does far more to take Australia back to 19<sup>th</sup> Century conservatism than it does “protect” Australians from a very normal, natural and enjoyable part of life.