Chinese Sex Workers in Australia 2006-2007 Survey

Demographics
- 31% of participants had been sex workers in China
- 50% accessed sex worker organisations
- 84% accessed sexual health clinics

Problems while working
- 81% believed the laws in Australia are fair
- 51% would call the police if sexually assaulted in Australia

Knowledge of the law
- 74% were clear on their rights
- 97% use condoms always same as Australian-born sex workers

Occupational Health and Safety
- 66% have never been sexually assaulted at work
- 93% go to the doctor for STI check-ups same as Australian-born sex workers

Methodology
- In April 2006, Zi Teng (Hong Kong) approached Scarlet Alliance to assist with a survey of Chinese sex workers in Australia. The Scarlet Migration Working Party Chinese-Speaking sub-committee focus tested and amended the survey, and produced Chinese language consent agreements.
- Ethics approval was granted by ACON and Inner-South Community Health Service.
- MOU's were signed with participating organisations.
- Surveys were collected in Sydney by SWOP (29), in Adelaide by SIN (13) in Melbourne by RhED, SWOP, SIN and Zi Teng (1) and in Canberra by Zi Teng and SWOP ACT (0).

Confidentiality
- Anti-trafficking initiatives seek witnesses for criminal prosecution from Chinese sex workers in Australia. While not illegal, migrant sex workers fear detection and deportation as a result of anti-trafficking measures.
- Community researchers felt unable to illicit migration data without compromising future peer education HIV prevention work.
- Methodology was required to overcome this ethical issue. The Australian-based multilingual Chinese speaking health educators, who were also researchers on this project, redesigned the survey for the Australian setting.

Customer
- Half of the participants (51%) of sex workers saw between 4 and 6 customers per day. Others saw 3 (15%), between 7-9 (26%) or 10 (8%). Almost all (92%) participants saw clients in Australia who are not from a Chinese background.
- 70% spoke English at work, 50% spoke Mandarin and 17% spoke Cantonese.
- Most sex workers (68%) saw clients who visited them regularly. While more than half (51%) worked more than 8 hours per day, a sizable percentage (35%) worked less than 8 hours.

Accessing Services in Australia
- 50% of participants (51%) of sex workers saw between 4 and 6 customers per day. Others saw 3 (15%), between 7-9 (26%) or 10 (8%). Almost all (92%) participants saw clients in Australia who are not from a Chinese background.