

**FPQ SUPPORTS FUNDING FOR SEX WORKER
HEALTH SERVICE**

Family Planning Queensland (FPQ) today expressed its support for statements by Queensland Health Minister Stephen Robertson about funding for sex worker advocacy services.

Spokesperson for FPQ, Robyn Kavanagh, said that such funding promotes safe sex, and is not a strategy for promoting prostitution.

Ms Kavanagh said “FPQ applauds this Queensland Health initiative to fund a sex worker support service as a responsible strategy for sexual health promotion.”

Ms Kavanagh said that FPQ promotes sexual and reproductive health for all, and recognises that as well as having significant sexual health needs themselves, sex workers can play an important role in educating their clients about sexual health, as well as advocating for safe sex practices.

“Supporting sex workers to comply with legal requirements to practice safe benefits the wider community, as well as sex workers and their clients”, Ms Kavanagh said.

Recent research into the Queensland sex industry highlights the fact that Australian sex workers have the lowest rate of HIV/AIDS in the world, due to effective provision of information, resources and support to sex workers

“Funding initiatives like this one will help ensure that this remains the case” said Ms Kavanagh.

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**For further information or to arrange an interview, please contact:
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