

Job vacancy – outreach worker

Project Respect supports women in the sex industry, providing outreach, individual case work, and group and peer support, using a strengths-based model of work. We are seeking an outreach worker for a new full-time position at Project Respect.

Responsibilities include outreach visits to brothels; provision of information, advice and support to women in the sex industry; case work with individual women and support to their children; facilitating group work and other kinds of peer support; networking with other service providers; and assistance in delivering training sessions.

Applications are sought from social workers, community development workers or people with relevant qualifications or experience. If you have done prostitution and/or speak an Asian language, you are strongly encouraged to apply.

Applicants are encouraged to contact Project Respect to discuss the position: (03) 9416 3401 or info@projectrespect.org.au.

A current Working with Children and Police Check are required.

Applications close 24 July 2009 and should be forwarded to:

Nina Vallins
Project Respect Coordinator
PO Box 1323
Collingwood 3066
info@projectrespect.org.au

Position description

POSITION TITLE	Outreach Worker
FULL-TIME/PART-TIME	Full-time, flexibility to include some evening and/or weekend work
CLASSIFICATION	Community Development Worker, Class III, salary packaging available
CERTIFIED AGREEMENT	Social and Community Services Award – Victoria – 2000
LOCATION	Fitzroy
REPORTS TO	Shirley Woods, Project Respect Outreach Coordinator
CONTACT DETAILS	9416 3401, info@projectrespect.org.au

1 Project Respect

Project Respect is a non-profit community-based organisation that aims to empower and support women in the sex industry, including women trafficked to Australia. Established in 1998, we conduct outreach and offer support to women in the sex industry across Victoria. We are Australia's first and leading counter-trafficking non-government organisation (NGO) and have unique expertise in providing support to victims of trafficking for prostitution.

Project Respect is managed by the Coordinator who is accountable to a Committee of Management. The Committee includes representatives of various sectors (women's health, law, government, research, communications) and of women with a lived experience of the sex industry.

1.1 Mission:

Our mission is to support women in the sex industry in Australia and to help prevent the exploitation and enslavement of women by the industry.

We aim to see this fulfilled through:

- **Empowerment:** of women who are or have been in the sex industry to rebuild their lives outside the industry and to become advocates on the issues of prostitution and trafficking;
- **Education:** of the community, led by women from the industry, to create a greater awareness of the harm of prostitution and trafficking, and to mobilise people to address these;
- **Advocacy:** promoting government, community and individual policies and practices which reduce the conditions that cause the sex industry to thrive and which promote feminist responses to prostitution and trafficking;
- **Activism:** which tackles the violence, discrimination and structural inequalities which support prostitution and trafficking, based on the expertise of women in the sex industry.

1.2 Vision

A world where there is no longer demand for prostitution and people trafficking

1.3 Project Respect works towards

1. Eradication of the abuse and inequalities, including between men and women, different cultures and different classes, which underpin and are strengthened by the sex industry

2. Adequate support given to women in the sex industry, including trafficked women, such as access to shelter, health care, legal support, compensation, and alternative employment pathways
3. Individuals, organisations and communities informed and mobilised to support women in the sex industry

2 Program area

Project Respect works with women in the sex industry, including women who have been trafficked for prostitution. In our direct work, we visit brothels, offering support and information to women in whichever areas they require (health, education, drug and alcohol, legal, sexual assault, domestic violence, gambling, etc.). Our outreach program also includes case management with individual women and some group work. Project Respect also runs peer support weekends for women and their children. An important component of outreach is networking with other service providers to develop referral pathways for specialist services to support women.

In other program areas, Project Respect also conducts advocacy, research, and training.

2.1 Position summary

Project Respect has received funding for this new position from the Federal Government in recognition of our work to support victims of trafficking. The position entails conducting outreach and providing support to women in brothels in Victoria with a particular focus on women for whom English is a second language. The outreach worker will offer women support, advice and information. An aim of this position is to contribute to the growing body of knowledge about trafficking in women.

Project Respect is seeking a suitably experienced and enthusiastic person who is able to provide support for women in the sex industry. Project Respect operates within a feminist, strengths-based philosophy.

Brothels visited are primarily in the Melbourne metropolitan area; however there may be some visits to rural and regional centres in Victoria.

2.2 Primary tasks:

- Outreach support services to women in the sex industry
- Foster women's power and self-esteem through visiting brothels and offering support, advice and information to women there
- Distribute and maintain information kits with information about support services relevant to women in the sex industry
- Write a newsletter for women in the industry
- Provide one-on-one support for women. Issues women commonly require support on and referrals for include domestic violence, sexual assault, legal access, gambling, drug and alcohol, indebtedness, imprisonment and physical and mental health. Support will include attending appointments with women, visits to prisons and hospitals, and access to legal, health, financial and counselling services
- Link women in with and support peer support activities, including weekends away

- Assist in the delivery of training to community organisations and other agencies on working with women in the sex industry
- Participate in and build community networks and partnerships
- Meet reporting requirements that include the collection, analysis and reporting on program data and the writing of case notes and maintenance of case files

3 Accountability, Supervision & Support

The Outreach Worker will be directly supervised by the Project Respect Outreach Coordinator. Regular supervision will be provided.

The Outreach Worker may be asked to supervise students on placement.

Project Respect provides access to critical incident debriefing with a qualified psychologist if necessary.

4 Selection criteria

Essential:

- Qualification or experience in social work, community development or other similar field
- Ability to work with marginalised and disadvantaged women
- Demonstrated understanding of the issues facing women in the sex industry
- Sensitivity to the needs of women from a non-English speaking or immigrant background
- Excellent communication, liaison and team work skills
- Initiative, flexibility and the ability to work in a challenging and dynamic environment
- The ability to approach tasks conscientiously and enthusiastically
- Competent computer skills
- Commitment to the spirit of the Project Respect to support all women in the sex industry, using a strengths-based model
- Current Drivers License

Highly desirable:

- Experience of the sex industry
- Bilingual in Thai, Korean, Mandarin, Cantonese or other Asian language

5 Conditions of Employment

This full-time position is approximately a 2-year contract based on 37.5 hours per week with a 3 month probationary period. Funding for the position is available from the Australian Government's Proceeds of Crime Act Fund until June 30 2011. Project Respect is currently setting up salary packaging for its staff. Salary packaging can significantly increase the value of the net salary.

The Outreach Worker will be employed under the terms of the SACS Victoria Award 2000 at the Classification of Class III.

Project Respect offers flexibility in working arrangements. Some weekend and after hours work will be required.

In addition to four weeks annual leave staff are granted an additional 3 days leave (grace-in-favour days) across the Christmas/New Year period (as these fall on normal days worked) and generous personal leave arrangements apply.

All new appointments are subject to a 3 month probationary period.

Privacy and Confidentiality Agreement required.

6 Form of application:

Written applications should include a covering letter addressing the selection criteria; a resume; and details of two employment referees.

- **Send applications to:**

Nina Vallins
Coordinator
Project Respect
PO Box 1323
Collingwood, 3066

Or email to info@projectrespect.org.au

- **Applications close July 24 2009**
- Please include in your covering letter a telephone number where you can be contacted during the day if required for an interview.
- Interviews are expected to take place in the last week of July / first week of August.