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SWOP NSW Welcomes Second Successful Prosecution Under NSW's Fraudulent-Inducement Consent Laws

The Saini matter is the first multi-victim, multi-charge case to succeed under the 2022 reforms recognising deceptive non-payment as sexual assault.

SWOP NSW welcomes today's sentencing of Harjeet Singh Saini, who pleaded guilty to multiple sexual assault offences after deceiving several sex workers into providing sexual services through fraudulent claims about payment, including a fabricated lottery win.

This is the second known prosecution under the 2022 NSW consent law reforms, which clarified that sexual consent is invalid when obtained through deception, including deception about payment for sexual services. An earlier matter in 2023 also resulted in a conviction under the strengthened legislation.

The Saini case confirms that the reforms are enforceable across both isolated and repeated offending.

Statement from Kerrie Jordan, CEO SWOP NSW

With two prosecutions now finalised under NSW's strengthened consent laws, the principle is clear: if someone lies about payment to obtain sexual access, it is not a misunderstanding, it is not a simple theft, it is sexual assault," Ms Jordan said.

The case reinforces that deception used to obtain sexual consent is sexual assault, a principle now upheld in two prosecutions. Sex workers deserve safety, dignity and equal protection under the law.



Non-Payment Is a Recognised Form of Sexual Violence

Non-payment, reversed payments and other financial deception are among the most common harms reported to SWOP NSW. The successful prosecution of two separate matters demonstrates that these harms are criminally prosecutable, not mere administrative disputes.

Barriers to Reporting Must Be Addressed

Despite legislative progress, sex workers continue to face stigma, fear of disbelief, and inconsistent frontline responses when reporting sexual violence. SWOP NSW emphasises that expanded and consistent NSW Police training on the 2022 reforms and other matters is essential to improve reporting pathways and outcomes.

SWOP NSW Calls for Continued Action

- **Increased police and frontline training** on updated consent laws and how they apply to sex workers.
- **Ongoing strengthening** of consent legislation, including reforms proposed by SWOP NSW in its recent submission to the DCJ review of NSW consent laws.
- **Investment in legal, counselling, and peer support services**, which are experiencing rising demand as awareness increases.

About SWOP NSW

SWOP NSW is Australia's largest peer-based sex worker organisation, providing health promotion, outreach, advocacy and support to improve the safety and wellbeing of sex workers across New South Wales. SWOP NSW provides confidential information, peer support, safety planning and referrals for sex workers who experience non-payment, sexual assault or any other form of harm.

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