

BROTHELS TO REOPEN IN QUEENSLAND ON 3 JULY 2020

On 8 May 2020, the Queensland Government released the *Roadmap to easing Queensland's restrictions* which provides for a phased approach to lifting COVID-19 restrictions. At that stage, brothels were not included in the Roadmap.

On 30 June 2020, it was announced that **brothels will be permitted to reopen under stage three of the easing of restrictions from 12 noon on 3 July 2020**. This is reflected in the *Restrictions on Businesses, Activities and Undertakings Direction (No.3)* issued by the Chief Health Officer, Dr Jeannette Young.

Brothels MUST operate in a COVID SAFE manner. As the sex industry has been deemed higher risk by the Chief Health Officer, **brothels must comply with the mandatory COVID SAFE Checklist that has been approved by Queensland Health** as part of their Workplace Health and Safety plan. The **COVID SAFE Checklist** must be completed before brothels can reopen, signed and displayed prominently at the premises. **Completed** checklists are not required to be submitted for approval to any authority.

Checklists cover requirements for:

- checking your business can reopen
- wellbeing of workers
- social distancing
- keeping records of all customers and visitors to the business
- hygiene, cleaning and infection control
- management of deliveries, contractors and visitors

An Emergency Officer (General), appointed under the Public Health Act, has powers to ensure that the Chief Health Officer's public health directions (which says that a checklist is needed) are complied with. The Prostitution Licensing Authority compliance officers will be appointed as Emergency Officers (General).

Non-completion of a COVID Safe checklist could result in a fine.

- **Staff must also complete mandatory COVID Safe training within two weeks of a business reopening or them commencing work at the business.** <https://tafeqld.edu.au/covid-safe>

For further information:

- <https://www.covid19.qld.gov.au/>
- <https://www.business.qld.gov.au/>
- <https://www.worksafe.qld.gov.au/>