

# Sex Service Premises Safer Design and Security

Safe City Factsheet Series Issue 7: Sex Service Premises Safer Design and Security

**Sydney is a safe city by international standards. Play your part in keeping our city safe by being aware of personal safety and take measures to protect yourself and your business.**



## Fast Facts

1. Approximately 49% of businesses become the victim of some form of crime, with burglary and shoplifting the most commonly experienced crimes.\*
2. Crime costs Australian small businesses \$3.2 billion a year, approximately \$8,000 per business.\*\*
3. The City of Sydney's Adult Entertainment and Sex Industry Premises DCP requires you to ensure the health and safety of staff and visitors.
4. Occupational Health and Safety legislation requires you to ensure the safety of staff and visitors.
5. Police Crime Prevention Officers in your local police station can provide a free security assessment of your premises.

\* Australian Institute of Criminology 2002  
 \*\* Australian Institute of Criminology 2000

## Entrance

Identify and screen visitors before they enter the premises.

1. **Street number and signage**  
 Reduce accidental entry to adjacent premises by providing clear and unobstructed street numbers and business signage.
2. **Entrance design and lighting**  
 Use lighting, privacy screening and landscaping to improve the observation of visitors by staff and reduce concealment opportunities.
3. **Controlled access**  
 Maximise control of entry to the premises by:
  - providing a single entry point;
  - using a locked security grill, and;
  - installing CCTV.

## Reception

Identify and screen clients after they have entered the premises.

1. **Safer design for reception areas**  
 Locate staff facilities, such as staffrooms and manager's offices, close to the entrance to support receptionist safety and increase client monitoring.
2. **Client assessment**  
 Use CCTV at reception to assist in the identification and assessment of clients.

## Client Waiting Areas

Supervise and contain clients in the premises.

1. **Allocated client waiting areas**  
Control client movement by providing monitored client waiting areas with privacy screens.
2. **Safer design for client waiting areas**  
Locate client waiting areas close to reception. Assist clients moving to and from waiting areas by providing clear pathways.

## Sex Worker Facilities

Maximise the privacy, comfort and safety of sex workers in the premises.

1. **Facilities design**  
Contain worker facilities in an area not accessible to clients, and provide intercoms and duress alarm systems.

## Service Rooms

Monitor access to and use of service rooms.

1. **Monitor access to service rooms**  
Clearly arrange and number service rooms, preferably containing them on one floor, to promote clear and restricted client pathways. Use CCTV to provide supervision of the corridors between rooms.
2. **Design of service rooms**  
Install intercoms and concealed duress alarms to enable sex workers to communicate with or alert reception in case of emergency. Do not have any items in the room that could be used as a weapon.



## Help and Assistance

Call 000 in case of emergency – Police, Fire or Ambulance.  
Report crime or suspicious activity to your local police station.  
Interpreter service 131 450.

## Information

Further information concerning the safer design and security requirements for sex service premises is contained in the Adult Entertainment and Sex Industry Premises Development Control Plan 2006 available from the City of Sydney on 9265 9333.