

PILL TESTING

Funding

Nil

Facts and Figures

- *State and territory position on pill testing*

Jurisdiction	Support	Under Consideration
ACT	Y	Y
NSW	N	N
VIC	N	N
QLD	?	Y
WA	N	N
SA	N	N
NT	N	N
TAS	N	N

Key points

- A number of young people are believed to have died from taking illicit drugs at Australian music festivals since September 2018. This has renewed calls for pill testing in Australia.
- The NSW Coroner is holding an inquest into several suspected drug induced deaths at NSW music festivals over a two week period in July 2019. Recommendations from this inquest are expected to be delivered in October 2019.
- The ACT is currently the only state and territory to have conducted pill testing.
- The Australian Government's position is that it does not support decisions to use illicit drugs, and in-principle does not support pill testing, as it could imply that illicit drugs are safe.

Recent media

- In a media article in the Courier Mail on 24 July 2019, Minister Hunt expressed his support for the Tasmanian Government's opposition to pill testing in response to Hobart City Council voting in support of pill testing at major events.
- There have been a number of recent media articles in July 2019, in relation to the NSW coronial inquest that is underway.

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