



**Office of the Hon Greg Hunt MP
Minister for Health**

Ref No: MC18-024704

4 FEB 2019

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Dear ^{s 47F}

I refer to your letter of 30 October 2018 to the Minister for Health, the Hon Greg Hunt MP, concerning disappointment at the Liberal National Government's stated opposition to pill testing. The Minister has asked that I respond on his behalf.

The Liberal National Government's approach to reducing and preventing the harms associated with illicit drugs is consistent with the overarching framework set out in the National Drug Strategy. The Government's concern first and foremost is the safety, health and wellbeing of Australians.

The Government does not support decisions to use illicit drugs, and does not in-principle support pill testing as it could imply that illicit drugs are safe. All illicit drug use contains inherent risks and even taking a known substance can result in unintended harm. Pill testing may not be able to identify all components in an illicit substance and does not take into account any underlying health conditions a person may have or interactions with any other substances or medications a person may have taken. The Commonwealth acknowledges that pill testing is largely a state and territory matter.

Thank you for writing on this matter.

Yours sincerely

Wendy Black
Chief of Staff