



**Australian Government**

**Department of Health**

Ref No. MC19-001051

s 47F

Dear <sup>s 47F</sup>

I refer to your correspondence of 14 January 2019 to the Prime Minister, the Hon Scott Morrison MP, regarding pill testing at musical festivals. Your letter has been referred to the Minister for Health, the Hon Greg Hunt MP. The Minister has asked me to reply.

The Australian 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 does not support the use of 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 Australian Capital Territory is the only jurisdiction to undertake a pill testing trial to date.

Decisions around the use of pill testing at events is largely a matter for state and territory governments to determine as drug laws concerning the possession, supply and manufacture of illicit drugs are within their remit. You may wish to contact the Victorian Government in relation to this matter.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'David Laffan'.

David Laffan  
A/g First Assistant Secretary,  
Population Health and Sport Division  
27 February 2019