



Australian Government
Department of Health

Ref No. MC18-027000

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Dear

I refer to your correspondence of 11 December 2018 to the Prime Minister, the Hon Scott Morrison MP, regarding pill testing. Your letter has been referred to the Minister for Health, the Hon Greg Hunt MP. The Minister has asked me to reply.

Decisions around the availability of pill testing at festivals are largely a matter for state and territory governments to determine.

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 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.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'David Laffan', written over a large, diagonal watermark.

David Laffan
Assistant Secretary
Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs Branch
16 January 2018