



Australian Government
Department of Health

Ref No. MC19-001734

s 47F

Dear s 47F

I refer to your correspondence of 28 January 2019 to the Prime Minister, the Hon Scott Morrison MP, regarding pill testing at music festivals. Your letter has been referred to the Minister for Health, the Hon Greg Hunt MP. The Minister has asked me to reply.

The Government's concern first and foremost is the safety, health and wellbeing of Australians. The Government's approach to preventing and reducing the harms associated with illicit drugs is set out in the overarching framework of the National Drug Strategy 2017-2026 (the Strategy). The Strategy is available at: www.health.gov.au/drugstrategy. The Strategy recognises Australia's long-standing and ongoing commitment to the underpinning principle of harm minimisation and a balanced approach between health and law enforcement.

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.

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 'DL', written over a large, diagonal watermark that reads 'THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN RELEASED UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982 BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH'.

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