



Australian Government
Department of Health

Ref No. MC19-007967

s 47F

Dear s 47F

Thank you for your letter of 8 May 2019 to the Minister for Health, the Hon Greg Hunt MP, concerning pill testing. I am responding on behalf of the Minister as the Government is now in a caretaker role pending the outcome of the federal election on 18 May 2019.

The Australian Government's concern first and foremost is the safety, health and wellbeing of Australians. The 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.

Decisions around the use of pill testing at events are 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.

The Australian Capital Territory Government, who have trialed pill testing at two music festivals, have a public report with results from the first trial available at <https://www.harmreductionaustralia.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Pill-Testing-Pilot-ACT-June-2018-Final-Report.pdf>. You may also wish to contact the South Australian Government in relation to its views on this matter.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

Lyndall Soper
First Assistant Secretary
Population Health and Sport Division

15 May 2019