



PRIME MINISTER

Reference: MC19-066880

27 NOV 2019

Major Brian Watters AO
President
Drug Free Australia
4/14 Tuffy Avenue
SANS SOUCI NSW 2219

Dear Major Watters

Thank you for your email dated 30 September 2019 regarding the legalisation of recreational use of cannabis in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT). I apologise for the delay in responding.

My Government is concerned about the impacts of drugs across Australia and the social, economic and personal harms they create.

The Commonwealth's view is that the ACT legislation has no legal effect, and that offences in the Commonwealth Criminal Code will continue to operate, including in the ACT, as the ACT legislation does not prevail over, or negate, the operation of the Criminal Code.

The Commonwealth Attorney-General, the Hon Christian Porter MP, has written to the ACT Attorney-General, Mr Gordon Ramsay MLA, expressing this position. This is also the advice given by the Minister for Health, the Hon Greg Hunt MP, to the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) in Vienna, by letter dated 1 November 2019. The Minister for Health confirmed Australia's commitment to the drug control treaties and acknowledged the role of the INCB in coordinating efforts to maintain the international drug control regime.

We intend to continue to monitor this situation closely and work with the ACT Government to get the best possible outcome – one that keeps Australians and our communities safe.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Scott Morrison', written over a white background.

SCOTT MORRISON