



Australian Government
Department of Health

Ref No: MC18-022715

Colliss Parrett
24/43 Blackall Street
BARTON ACT 2600

Dear Mr Parrett

Thank you for your correspondence of 30 September 2018 to the Minister for Health, the Hon Greg Hunt MP, regarding the risks associated with pill testing. The Minister has asked me to reply.

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 Commonwealth's concern first and foremost is the safety, health and wellbeing of Australians.

The Government does not support decisions to use 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 Liberal National Government does not support pill testing but notes this issue is primarily the responsibility of the states and territories.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

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

Mr David Laffan
Assistant Secretary
Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs Branch
19 November 2018