

**Cramond, Sarah (Health)**

---

**From:** Arnold, Megan (Health)  
**Sent:** Friday, 16 February 2018 2:20 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Dennis, Kathy (Health)  
**Subject:** RE: Pill testing proposal for GTM Canberra [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi [REDACTED]  
 Thanks,  
 I've just forwarded the invitation to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] as well.  
 See you then.  
 Kind regards  
 Megan

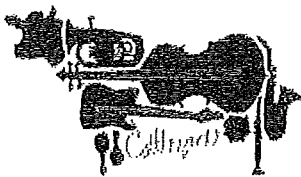
**From:** [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]@cattleyard.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, 16 February 2018 1:40 PM  
**To:** Arnold, Megan (Health) <Megan.Arnold@act.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Re: Pill testing proposal for GTM Canberra [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Thanks Megan, 11am is great.

Can you please include [REDACTED]@cattleyard.com ([REDACTED] & [REDACTED]@cattleyard.com [REDACTED]) on the calendar invite?

Kind Regards,

[REDACTED]  
 [REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

[cattleyard.com](http://cattleyard.com) | [gtm.net.au](http://gtm.net.au) | [theplot.co](http://theplot.co)  
 Suite 4, 50 Reservoir St  
 Surry Hills, NSW 2010

On 16 Feb 2018, at 9:12 am, Arnold, Megan (Health) <[Megan.Arnold@act.gov.au](mailto:Megan.Arnold@act.gov.au)> wrote:

Hi [REDACTED]  
 No worries, looks like we can do it at 11am if that works.  
 I'll send an invitation through.  
 Catch you Monday!  
 Megan

**From:** [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]@cattleyard.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, 16 February 2018 8:58 AM  
**To:** Arnold, Megan (Health) <Megan.Arnold@act.gov.au>  
**Cc:** Dennis, Kathy (Health) <Kathy.Dennis@act.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Re: Pill testing proposal for GTM Canberra [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi Megan,

Apologies for the delay! I've been in WA for meetings and had a full day of travel yesterday so playing catch ups here!

Unfortunately we have a stakeholder meeting at that time that we can't move. Any chance we could meet between 10am - 12pm?

Kind Regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

<image001.png>

[REDACTED]

[www.cattleyard.com](http://www.cattleyard.com)  
 Suite 4, 50 Reservoir Street  
 Surry Hills, NSW 2010

On 14 Feb 2018, at 2:19 pm, Arnold, Megan (Health)  
 <Megan.Arnold@act.gov.au> wrote:

Hi [REDACTED]

Great to hear from you.

Would you be free to come to the ACT Health office in Woden from 2:30-3:00 on that day?

We can also get the relevant person from ACT policing at that time, which I thought might be useful.

Let me know, and if it suits I can send yourself and [REDACTED] a meeting invitation with building access details etc.

Kind regards

Megan

**From:** [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]@cattleyard.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, 12 February 2018 3:19 PM  
**To:** Arnold, Megan (Health) <Megan.Arnold@act.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Re: Pill testing proposal for GTM Canberra [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi Megan,

I hope you're well. Just touching base as [REDACTED] & I will be coming to Canberra for a Stakeholder meeting next Monday the 19th of February and

wondered if it would be possible to arrange a meeting to catch up and have a chat about the below?

As you are aware Groovin the Moo keeps popping up in this conversation and the proposal for a trial at GTM was again mentioned in a statement given by Meegan Fitzharris from ACT Health on the 3rd of February. It would be great to meet face to face and just have a chat so we are clear on the ACT Government's position here.

Kind Regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

<image001.png>

[REDACTED]

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Suite 4, 50 Reservoir Street  
Surry Hills, NSW 2010

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Arnold, Megan (Health)"  
<[Megan.Arnold@act.gov.au](mailto:Megan.Arnold@act.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Pill testing proposal for GTM  
Canberra [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]  
**Date:** 24 January 2018 at 10:58:09 AM  
AEDT  
**To:** "[REDACTED]@cattleyard.com"  
[REDACTED]@cattleyard.com>  
**Cc:** "Dennis, Kathy (Health)"  
<[Kathy.Dennis@act.gov.au](mailto:Kathy.Dennis@act.gov.au)>

Dear [REDACTED]

Thanks for taking my call this morning, sorry for the crackly phone line!

I work in the team at ACT Health which covers a range of issues, one of which has been the proposals to run pill testing at music festivals.

We've been in touch with [REDACTED] from Harm Reduction Australia about their aim to run this service at the upcoming Groovin the Moo in Canberra.

Would it be possible to have a conversation with the Canberra GTM event manager, to make sure we're on the same page about the proposal? I can be contacted during business hours on the phone and email below.

Kind regards

Megan Arnold  
Health Improvement Projects  
Population Health Protection & Prevention | Health Improvement Branch  
ACT Health  
Phone: 6205 1384 | [Megan.Arnold@act.gov.au](mailto:Megan.Arnold@act.gov.au)

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## CATTLEYARD PROMOTIONS

Suite 4 / 50 Reservoir Street, Surry Hills NSW 2010

Phone: +61 2 9318 6300

hello@cattleyard.com

ABN: 36 112 167 021

Monday 26 February 2018

**Status:** Confidential and for the advice of ACT Health Team (as listed below) only

**To:** Paul Kelly ([paul.kelly@act.gov.au](mailto:paul.kelly@act.gov.au)), Megan Arnold ([Megan.Arnold@act.gov.au](mailto:Megan.Arnold@act.gov.au)), Kathy Dennis ([Kathy.Dennis@act.gov.au](mailto:Kathy.Dennis@act.gov.au))

**re:** Statement provided by Cattleyard Promotions in response to potential pill testing at Groovin the Moo Canberra 2018

Cattleyard Promotions will support pill testing taking place at Groovin the Moo Canberra 2018, on the proviso the following requests are met in full by Thursday 29 March 2018:

- The contents of this statement are not shared with the media without the express permission in writing from Cattleyard Promotions
- Cattleyard Promotions is indemnified against any prosecution from any Patron, Government organisation, the Venue (known as 'University of Canberra'), Australian Federal Police ('AFP') or the organisers (known as 'STA-SAFE') associated with this trial taking place at Groovin the Moo Canberra
- All parties associated with this trial must provide the requested insurances that meet the requirements of the Insurer of Groovin the Moo
- University Of Canberra confirms in writing that it provides support for the trial to take place on their grounds at University of Canberra as part of GTM Canberra. Noting the Venue MOU between University of Canberra and Cattleyard Promotions will need to be updated to this effect
- ACT Government confirms in writing that it provides support to the trial
- Australian Federal Police (AFP) confirms in writing that anyone who attends GTM and engages in the personal use of illegal substances after using the pill testing service while on the event site will receive immunity to prosecution
  - Noting it is intended that this request covers the scenario whereby a patron is immune from any actions engaged in on this day - AFP are not to use intelligence gathered from GTM Canberra to use in prosecution post-event
  - noting this does not include anyone who is in possession of enough pills to qualify with having the intent to supply)
- GTM Medical providers and stakeholders confirm in writing they are happy for this trial to take place in the designated Medical Area of Groovin the Moo Canberra
- GTM Licensee and ACT Liquor Licensing confirm in writing they are happy for this trial to take place in the designated Medical Area of Groovin the Moo Canberra
- The trial must take place in the designated Medical Area of Groovin the Moo Canberra and must be open to anyone who wishes to use it (this includes people who are under 18 years of age)
- All parties must agree on any media briefings, announcements or offline conversations on this trial taking place by any of the parties involved as well as from third parties (publicists, marketing departments) who may be instructed by the parties involved
- All costs of this trial are at the expense of the organisers - not Cattleyard Promotions

CATTLEYARD PROMOTIONS: [www.cattleyard.com](http://www.cattleyard.com)  
 GROOVIN THE MOO: [www.gtm.net.au](http://www.gtm.net.au) | THE PLOT: [www.theplot.co](http://www.theplot.co)

**Cramond, Sarah (Health)**

---

**From:** Arnold, Megan (Health)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 14 February 2018 3:39 PM  
**To:** Douglas, Cynthia (Health); Rushall, Anita (Health); McWha, Dalton (Health)  
**Cc:** Dennis, Kathy (Health)  
**Subject:** Comms plan for updating [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]  
**Attachments:** Pill testing Comms plan with tracked changes Feb 2018.docx

Hi Cynthia, Anita and Dalton  
Thank you for your time this afternoon.

Please see my attempts at modification of the Comms plan attached.  
The engagement plan part of the document I haven't really touched, but happy to chat any time.

Thanks again  
Megan

Megan Arnold  
Senior Policy Officer  
Health Improvement Projects  
Population Health Protection and Prevention  
ACT Health | Level 3, 4 Bowes Street | Woden ACT  
GPO Box 825, Canberra City ACT 2601  
Phone: 02 6205 1384 | Email: [megan.arnold@act.gov.au](mailto:megan.arnold@act.gov.au)

**Cramond, Sarah (Health)**

---

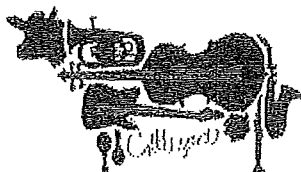
**From:** [REDACTED]@cattleyard.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 27 February 2018 9:15 AM  
**To:** Kelly, Paul (Health)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]@cattleyard.com; [REDACTED] Dennis, Kathy (Health); Arnold, Megan (Health)  
**Subject:** Re: Cattleyard Promotions' Position Statement - Actions items following today's pill testing stakeholder meeting [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi Paul,

Thanks for clarifying the process. We do appreciate and understand it will need to be shared internally, however we would hope that anyone who receives the information outside of your working group would appreciate the context in which it was provided.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

[cattleyard.com](http://cattleyard.com) | [gtm.net.au](http://gtm.net.au) | [theplot.co](http://theplot.co)  
Suite 4/ 50 Reservoir St  
Surry Hills, NSW 2010

On 26 Feb 2018, at 6:12 pm, Kelly, Paul (Health) <[Paul.Kelly@act.gov.au](mailto:Paul.Kelly@act.gov.au)> wrote:

Hi [REDACTED]

Thanks for the email and the very clear articulation of the Cattleyard position. This will really assist us in our deliberations on the proposal from STA-SAFE which I re-iterate is a consortium of non-government organisations.

I do need to clarify the matter of confidentiality. Whilst I will not be sharing any of this detail with anyone outside of ACT Government, I cannot undertake to limit distribution only to ACT Health employees. I have been tasked by the Minister for Health and Wellbeing to lead a cross-government group to examine the proposal and advise the ACT government. Members of the working party include ACT Policing and the Justice and Community Safety Directorate. We have also on occasion

had need to also consult our (in-house) ACT Government Solicitor's office. Also, as a government employee, I serve at the discretion of the Minister and I may be obliged to share this matter with her as well. What she, or other members of the ACT Cabinet choose to do with that information is beyond my direct control.

I am happy to discuss this further if required.

Regards,

Paul

***Dr Paul Kelly***

**ACT Chief Health Officer & Deputy Director-General |**

**Population Health | ACT Health Directorate**

**PH 02 6205 2108 | E [paul.kelly@act.gov.au](mailto:paul.kelly@act.gov.au)**

**<image007.jpg> Paul Kelly - ACT CHO (@PKelly\_ACTCHO) on Twitter**

**<http://www.health.act.gov.au/healthy-living/population-health>**

<image008.png><image005.png>

**From** [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]@cattleyard.com]

**Sent:** Monday, 26 February 2018 5:07 PM

**To:** Kelly, Paul (Health) <[Paul.Kelly@act.gov.au](mailto:Paul.Kelly@act.gov.au)>

**Cc:** [REDACTED]@cattleyard.com; [REDACTED]@cattleyard.com; Dennis, Kathy (Health)

<[Kathy.Dennis@act.gov.au](mailto:Kathy.Dennis@act.gov.au)>; Arnold, Megan (Health) <[Megan.Arnold@act.gov.au](mailto:Megan.Arnold@act.gov.au)>

**Subject:** Re: Cattleyard Promotions' Position Statement - Actions items following today's pill testing stakeholder meeting [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi Paul, Kathy and Megan,

As discussed in our meeting at ACT Health on Monday 19 February and again via phone conference call on Thursday 22 February, please find the attached statement. Noting the attached statement is confidential and for viewing by ACT Health employees only.

Please also note our request that all requirements are met and confirmed by Thursday 29 March to allow sufficient time (one month) for planning and adequate stakeholder consultation ahead of the event date of GTM Canberra, Sunday 29 April 2018.

In the event this statement is shared with any third parties or the media without the express written permission of Cattleyard Promotions, Cattleyard Promotions (GTM Canberra) will cease any conversations around this pill testing trial.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

<image006.png>





[cattleyard.com](http://cattleyard.com) | [gtm.net.au](http://gtm.net.au) | [theplot.co](http://theplot.co)  
Suite 4/ 50 Reservoir St  
Surry Hills, NSW 2010

On 26 Feb 2018, at 1:06 pm, Dennis, Kathy (Health)  
<[Kathy.Dennis@act.gov.au](mailto:Kathy.Dennis@act.gov.au)> wrote:

Hi [redacted] and [redacted]

Megan has had to leave early today and is off for a few days so could you please copy me in on your written position statement as well.

Many thanks

**Kathy Dennis**

Senior Manager | Health Improvement Projects | Health Improvement Branch  
Phone: (02) 6207 5700 | Email: [kathy.dennis@act.gov.au](mailto:kathy.dennis@act.gov.au)  
Population Health Protection and Prevention | ACT Health | ACT Government  
Level 3, 2-6 Bowes Street, Woden | GPO Box 825 Canberra City ACT 2601  
| [www.act.gov.au](http://www.act.gov.au)

<image001.png>

*"We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the ACT, the Ngunnawal people. We acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and region."*

**From:** Arnold, Megan (Health)

**Sent:** Thursday, 22 February 2018 12:08 PM

**To:** [redacted]

[redacted]@canberra.edu.au; [redacted]@cattleyard.com; [redacted]@cattleyard.com; [redacted]@3vc.com.au

**Cc:** Harper, Emily (Health) <[Emily.Harper@act.gov.au](mailto:Emily.Harper@act.gov.au)>; Kelly, Paul (Health) <[Paul.Kelly@act.gov.au](mailto:Paul.Kelly@act.gov.au)>; Dennis, Kathy (Health) <[Kathy.Dennis@act.gov.au](mailto:Kathy.Dennis@act.gov.au)> [redacted]

[redacted]@cattleyard.com>

**Subject:** Actions items following today's pill testing stakeholder meeting  
[SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi everyone,

Thank you very much for your time this morning, and for the honest conversation regarding potential pill testing at Groovin the Moo.

Just a reminder that there were some action items arising from the meeting:

- UC to provide a written position statement on pill testing at Groovin the Moo as the landowner.

- Cattleyard to provide a written position statement on pill testing at Groovin the Moo as the promoter.
- STA-SAFE to provide remaining documents in support of the proposal.

As you'd all be aware, there are some very tight timelines we're working within if this proposal is to be successful, so we'd appreciate these items as soon as possible. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] noting you've already indicated Monday afternoon and within 24 hours respectively).

If these documents could please be sent to Paul ([paul.kelly@act.gov.au](mailto:paul.kelly@act.gov.au)) with myself copied in, that would be much appreciated.

Thank you again for your input today, and I look forward to talking to you again soon.

Kind regards

Megan

Megan Arnold  
Senior Policy Officer  
Health Improvement Projects  
Population Health Protection and Prevention  
ACT Health | Level 3, 4 Bowes Street | Woden ACT  
GPO Box 825, Canberra City ACT 2601  
Phone: 02 6205 1384 | Email: [megan.arnold@act.gov.au](mailto:megan.arnold@act.gov.au)

---

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**From:** [redacted] [mailto:[redacted]@cattleyard.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 21 March 2018 1:57 PM  
**To:** Dennis, Kathy (Health) <Kathy.Dennis@act.gov.au>  
**Cc:** [redacted]@cattleyard.com; [redacted] <[redacted]@cattleyard.com>; Arnold, Megan (Health) <Megan.Arnold@act.gov.au>; Kelly, Paul (Health) <Paul.Kelly@act.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Re: Cattleyard Promotions' Position Statement - Actions items following today's pill testing stakeholder meeting [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi Kathy,

I have further information on the point you've queried.

With regards to insurances, there's a few steps to go through.

We would need the organisation running the operation to provide their Public Liability, we would need to be listed as an additional insured on the policy.

We would also need a copy of their Professional Indemnity.

We would also need to have the hold harmless and indemnity agreement in place.

This would all need to be sent to our Insurers and Solicitors for their consideration. Then we would need to go from there.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED] [@cattleyard.com](mailto: [REDACTED]@cattleyard.com)

[cattleyard.com](http://cattleyard.com) | [gtm.net.au](http://gtm.net.au) | [theplot.co](http://theplot.co)  
Suite 4/ 50 Reservoir St  
Surry Hills, NSW 2010

On 27 Feb 2018, at 12:08 pm, Dennis, Kathy (Health)  
<[Kathy.Dennis@act.gov.au](mailto:Kathy.Dennis@act.gov.au)> wrote:

Hi [REDACTED]

Thank you for this. I would just like to follow up on one of the dot points :  
- All parties associated with this trial must provide the requested insurances that meet the requirements of the insurer of Groovin the Moo.

Are you able to either provide me with the name of your insurer so I can approach them directly to understand what their requirements are, or alternatively, are you able to approach them and ask them to provide those details to us

Many thanks

**Kathy Dennis**

Senior Manager | Health Improvement Projects | Health Improvement Branch  
Phone: (02) 6207 5700 | Email: [kathy.dennis@act.gov.au](mailto:kathy.dennis@act.gov.au)  
Population Health Protection and Prevention | ACT Health | ACT Government

Level 3, 2-6 Bowes Street, Woden | GPO Box 825 Canberra City ACT 2601 |  
[www.act.gov.au](http://www.act.gov.au)

<image001.png>

*"We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the ACT; the Ngunnawal people. We acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and region."*

From: [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]@cattleyard.com]

Sent: Monday, 26 February 2018 5:07 PM

To: Kelly, Paul (Health) <Paul.Kelly@act.gov.au>

Cc: [REDACTED]@cattleyard.com; [REDACTED]@cattleyard.com; Dennis, Kathy (Health) <Kathy.Dennis@act.gov.au>; Arnold, Megan (Health) <Megan.Arnold@act.gov.au>

Subject: Re: Cattleyard Promotions' Position Statement - Actions items following today's pill testing stakeholder meeting [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi Paul, Kathy and Megan,

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Please also note our request that all requirements are met and confirmed by Thursday 29 March to allow sufficient time (one month) for planning and adequate stakeholder consultation ahead of the event date of GTM Canberra, Sunday 29 April 2018.

In the event this statement is shared with any third parties or the media without the express written permission of Cattleyard Promotions, Cattleyard Promotions (GTM Canberra) will cease any conversations around this pill testing trial.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

<image002.png>

[REDACTED]  
 [REDACTED]@cattleyard.com  
 [REDACTED]

[cattleyard.com](http://cattleyard.com) | [gtm.net.au](http://gtm.net.au) | [theplot.co](http://theplot.co)  
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Hi [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

Megan has had to leave early today and is off for a few days so could you please copy me in on your written position statement as well.

Many thanks

**Kathy Dennis**  
Senior Manager | Health Improvement Projects | Health Improvement Branch  
Phone: (02) 6207 5700 | Email: [kathy.dennis@act.gov.au](mailto:kathy.dennis@act.gov.au)  
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<image001.png>

*"We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the ACT, the Ngunnawal people. We acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and region."*

**From:** Arnold, Megan (Health)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 22 February 2018 12:08 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]@canberra.edu.au;  
[REDACTED]@cattleyard.com; [REDACTED]@cattleyard.com; [REDACTED]@3vc.com.au  
**Cc:** Harper, Emily (Health) <[Emily.Harper@act.gov.au](mailto:Emily.Harper@act.gov.au)>; Kelly, Paul (Health) <[Paul.Kelly@act.gov.au](mailto:Paul.Kelly@act.gov.au)>; Dennis, Kathy (Health) <[Kathy.Dennis@act.gov.au](mailto:Kathy.Dennis@act.gov.au)>; [REDACTED]@cattleyard.com  
**Subject:** Actions items following today's pill testing stakeholder meeting [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi everyone,  
Thank you very much for your time this morning, and for the honest conversation regarding potential pill testing at Groovin the Moo.

Just a reminder that there were some action items arising from the meeting:

- UC to provide a written position statement on pill testing at Groovin the Moo as the landowner.
- Cattleyard to provide a written position statement on pill testing at Groovin the Moo as the promoter.
- STA-SAFE to provide remaining documents in support of the proposal.

As you'd all be aware, there are some very tight timelines we're working within if this proposal is to be successful, so we'd appreciate these items as soon as possible.

[REDACTED] and [REDACTED] (noting you've already indicated Monday afternoon and within 24 hours respectively).

If these documents could please be sent to Paul ([paul.kelly@act.gov.au](mailto:paul.kelly@act.gov.au)) with myself copied in, that would be much appreciated.

Thank you again for your input today, and I look forward to talking to you again soon.

Kind regards

Megan

Megan Arnold  
Senior Policy Officer  
Health Improvement Projects  
Population Health Protection and Prevention  
ACT Health | Level 3, 4 Bowes Street | Woden ACT  
GPO Box 825, Canberra City ACT 2601  
Phone: 02 6205 1384 | Email: [megan.arnold@act.gov.au](mailto:megan.arnold@act.gov.au)

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**Cramond, Sarah (Health)**

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**From:** Arnold, Megan (Health)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 22 March 2018 2:31 PM  
**To:** Rushall, Anita (Health)  
**Subject:** RE: Pill testing Groovin the Moo [DLM=Sensitive: Cabinet]

Absolutely understand!  
 Thanks

**From:** Rushall, Anita (Health)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 22 March 2018 2:19 PM  
**To:** Arnold, Megan (Health) <Megan.Arnold@act.gov.au>  
**Cc:** Dennis, Kathy (Health) <Kathy.Dennis@act.gov.au>; Douglas, Cynthia (Health) <Cynthia.Douglas@act.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: Pill testing Groovin the Moo [DLM=Sensitive: Cabinet]

Hi Megan,

Great! Thanks for confirming- I just want to keep on top of this one because of the tight turn around and deadlines.

Kind regards,

Anita Rushall | Health Literacy Officer

*Care ▲ Excellence ▲ Collaboration ▲ Integrity*

Level 3, 2-6 Bowes Street Woden 2606  
 PO Box 11, Woden ACT 2606  
 Phone: 6205 9281 Email: [anita.rushall@act.gov.au](mailto:anita.rushall@act.gov.au)



 [@ACTHealth](https://twitter.com/ACTHealth)  [facebook.com/ACTHealthDirectorate](https://facebook.com/ACTHealthDirectorate)

**From:** Arnold, Megan (Health)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 22 March 2018 2:05 PM  
**To:** Rushall, Anita (Health) <[Anita.Rushall@act.gov.au](mailto:Anita.Rushall@act.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** Dennis, Kathy (Health) <[Kathy.Dennis@act.gov.au](mailto:Kathy.Dennis@act.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: Pill testing Groovin the Moo [DLM=Sensitive: Cabinet]

Hi Anita

Thanks for the email.

At the moment, there's the caveat brief and a Min Brief that we haven't yet had returned with feedback, so we don't feel in a position yet to change the official language from 'ACT Government has provided a supportive policy environment for the trial to take place' without that further guidance.

Once the advice does come back, you'll definitely be in the loop ASAP.

Thanks!



Meg

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**From:** Rushall, Anita (Health)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 22 March 2018 8:52 AM  
**To:** Arnold, Megan (Health) <[Megan.Arnold@act.gov.au](mailto:Megan.Arnold@act.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** Douglas, Cynthia (Health) <[Cynthia.Douglas@act.gov.au](mailto:Cynthia.Douglas@act.gov.au)>; McWha, Dalton (Health) <[Dalton.McWha@act.gov.au](mailto:Dalton.McWha@act.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Pill testing Groovin the Moo [DLM=Sensitive: Cabinet]

Hi Megan,

Hope this e-mail reaches you well! Could you please provide me with a status update of GTM pill testing? We cancelled our meeting last week about communications requirements- as the situation was uncertain- however this article has popped up in the media today.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-03-22/groovin-the-moo-gtm-pill-testing-possible-university-canberra/9573158>

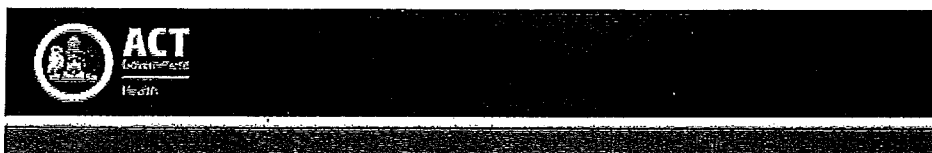
It says that 'It is not yet clear whether the promoter of Groovin the Moo, Cattleyard has signed on to the trial and calls to the promoter by the ABC have not been returned' however which I believe was the original issue that was discussed in the caveat brief.

Kind regards,

Anita Rushall | Health Literacy Officer

*Care ▲ Excellence ▲ Collaboration ▲ Integrity*

Level 3, 2-6 Bowes Street Woden 2606  
PO Box 11, Woden ACT 2606  
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[@ACTHealth](https://twitter.com/ACTHealth)



[facebook.com/ACTHealthDirectorate](https://facebook.com/ACTHealthDirectorate)

**Cramond, Sarah (Health)**

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**From:** Arnold, Megan (Health)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 28 March 2018 11:55 AM  
**To:** Rushall, Anita (Health); Pulli, Tracey (Health)  
**Subject:** pill testing documents [DLM=Sensitive]  
**Attachments:** Media talking points and QA - Pill testing March 2018.docx; Advisory note 27 March attached to Brief 18 4414.docx; CHO letter to Cattleyard pill testing March 2018.docx; CHO letter to UC pill testing March 2018.docx; Minister letter to [REDACTED] [REDACTED] March 2018 kd comments.docx

Hi Anita and Tracey  
Please see attached  
Tanks very much

Megan Arnold  
Senior Policy Officer  
Health Improvement Projects  
Population Health Protection and Prevention  
ACT Health | Level 3, 4 Bowes Street | Woden ACT  
GPO Box 825, Canberra City ACT 2601  
Phone: 02 6205 1384 | Email: [megan.arnold@act.gov.au](mailto:megan.arnold@act.gov.au)

## Pill testing proposal

*Date: Wednesday 27 March 2018*

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### Media talking points

- In February 2018, the Safety Testing and Advisory Service at Festivals and Events (STA-SAFE) consortium submitted a proposal to conduct a pill testing trial at a music festival in the ACT. STA-SAFE is a consortium of non-government organisations led by Harm Reduction Australia.
- Pill testing is a harm reduction service (also known as drug checking) that analyses the contents of drugs and helps patrons avoid taking unknown and potentially dangerous substances often found in illicit drugs. This service is frequently accompanied by drug counselling and brief interventions provided by health professionals.
- ACT Health reconvened the cross directorate Pill Testing Working Group to examine the STA-SAFE proposal, in the context of Groovin the Moo music festival at the University of Canberra on 29 April 2018.
- The working group has undertaken significant consultation with relevant stakeholders including STA-SAFE, the University of Canberra and Cattleyard Promotions, the Groovin the Moo promoter.
- It is important to realise that the pill testing trial would only be successfully implemented with the full support of all the relevant stakeholders.
- With the requirements identified to secure full support of all parties not able to be met, it is unlikely that a pill testing trial will go ahead at Groovin the Moo.
- It is important to be clear that through supporting pill testing the ACT Government is not softening its approach to drugs and there are no proposed changes to legislation. It is illegal to possess, manufacture and distribute illicit drugs in the ACT.
- The ACT Government also does not approve or condone illicit drug use. Our message to the community will always be that it is dangerous to take illicit drugs.

### Pill testing

- Pill testing is a harm reduction service (also known as drug checking) that analyses the contents of drugs and helps patrons avoid taking unknown and potentially dangerous substances often found in illicit drugs.
- Evidence shows limiting the dangers of illicit drug use through services such as pill testing can help to reduce harm at events that drugs are prevalent at.
- Pill testing provides an opportunity for health professionals to give face to face education and advice to young people about the harm and risk of consuming illicit drugs and the potential toxicity of any unknown substances.
- As this health intervention is occurring prior to a young person taking the substance, it could be what changes their mind from taking the illicit substance and putting themselves at risk.

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## Question and Answer

### **What is pill testing?**

Pill testing is a harm reduction service (also known as drug checking) that analyses the contents of drugs and helps patrons to avoid taking unknown and potentially dangerous substances often found in illicit drugs.

Service staff test a small sample of the pill, then interpret and provide the results with information about the risks of consuming the substances identified in the sample.

Pill testing facilities have been effectively used internationally since the 1990s and are currently available in approximately 20 countries in Europe, the Americas and New Zealand.

### **What is harm reduction?**

Harm reduction includes measures aimed at reducing the adverse health, social and economic consequences of the use of drugs, for the user, their families and the wider community. Along with demand reduction and supply reduction, harm reduction makes up the three pillars of the balanced harm minimisation approach outlined in the National Drug Strategy 2017-2026.

### **How are pills tested?**

The pill testing services can be conducted by volunteer medical staff and analytical chemists using a mobile laboratory. Patrons are asked to undertake a pre-test self-assessment which will ask what they believe the substance is and to then provide a small scraping of the substance onto the test equipment.

After the pill has been tested, the staff provide information regarding the results and discuss the risks of drug taking. Patrons are given an opportunity to discard the illicit substance in the amnesty bin.

The composition of illicit drugs is highly variable and unpredictable. The makers of illicit drugs will frequently cut pills with other substances, or substitute other more dangerous drugs entirely. Drugs may also be produced and distributed in unfavourable environments.

Pill testing enables better risk management by consumers. It helps people make an informed decision on whether or not to take the drug if it is found to be overly potent or contain unexpected substances.

### **Does pill testing promote or condone drug use?**

No- evidence suggests that people don't end up consuming more illicit substances as a result of a pill testing service. Pill testing services are a unique opportunity to effectively encourage people who use illicit drugs to modify their behaviours in ways that reduce risks of harm to their health.

There is no evidence that providing pill testing leads to increased drug dealing, or drug use, at festivals. This is consistent with the high levels of illicit drug use reported in this setting regardless of the presence of pill testing.

### **When will the ACT Government make a decision going forward about pill testing for upcoming festivals?**

Proposals for future pill testing services in the ACT will be assessed on their merits. The working group believes that STA-SAFE have the capability to deliver this service in the future.

**Do the Groovin the Moo organisers support pill testing at the festival?**

The Government is not able to comment on behalf of the event promoters, who are a private company.

**Does the University of Canberra support pill testing at Groovin the Moo?**

We understand that the University of Canberra has publically confirmed that they support pill testing at Groovin the Moo, however the government cannot comment on behalf of the University.

**Do ACT Policing and ACT Ambulance support pill testing?**

ACT Health has worked closely with Justice and Community Safety Directorate (JACS), ACT Ambulance Service (ACTAS) and ACT Policing through the ACT Government's Working Group. All agencies are supportive of pill testing as a harm minimisation initiative.

**Is there community support for pill testing?**

ACT Health together with Justice and Community Safety Directorate (JACS), ACT Ambulance Service (ACTAS) and ACT Policing formed a cross government working group. The working group has undertaken significant consultation that was overwhelmingly in favour of pill testing being allowed to take place in the ACT.

Consultation with the wider Canberra community in the form of a Canberra Omnibus Survey run by Winton Sustainable Research Strategies found nine in ten people (89.8%) say they support a harm reduction approach.

**Does pill testing make taking illicit drug use safe?**

No. Pill testing services operate on a harm reduction principle. The service will provide you with information on the contents, the risks involved, and how to reduce them. Even with laboratory level testing, service staff never advise users that the drug they are taking is 'safe.'

Also, chemical analysis is also not able to determine with certainty whether a person will have a toxic reaction to taking a pill, although certain contaminants are highly toxic and likely to cause harm if ingested. Illicit drugs such as amphetamines and MDMA are inherently unsafe and pill testing cannot certify that a person will not suffer an adverse reaction as a result of taking them.

**Are legislative changes needed to allow pill testing to happen in the ACT?**

STA-SAFE has not proposed any change to the legislative status of illicit drugs in the ACT. The possession, supply, and use of illicit drugs remains illegal in the ACT. However, pill testing is a method of harm minimisation and aims to keep people safe.

**What evidence is available that pill testing actually reduces harm?**

Available evidence indicates that providing consumers with information about the content of illegal drugs they intend to ingest can reduce rates of overdose or toxicity from unknown substances.

There is also evidence that pill testing facilitates engagement of festival patrons in counselling. A report from Austria found that half of those who had their drugs tested stated the results affected their consumption choices and two-thirds said they would not consume the drug and would warn friends in case of negative results.

A recent published review of pill testing by an NGO at eight festivals in New Zealand analysed 330 samples. The testing service identified 39 different psychoactive substances. More than 75 per cent

of patrons believed their substance was MDMA or LSD. Only 66 per cent of samples were actually MDMA or LSD, and 38 per cent of samples were not exactly what patrons believed them to be. The NGO reported the impact on patron's behaviour being significant with patrons making more considered and safer decisions. 63 per cent of patrons indicated they did not intend to take the drug when they learnt it was not what was expected.

The available literature does not provide evidence that pill testing prevents deaths among festival patrons. Any such effect would be difficult to study due to the unpredictable nature of adverse events from illicit drug consumption.

**Cramond, Sarah (Health)**

---

**From:** Rushall, Anita (Health)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 28 March 2018 11:57 AM  
**To:** Arnold, Megan (Health); Pulli, Tracey (Health)  
**Cc:** Douglas, Cynthia (Health)  
**Subject:** RE: pill testing documents [DLM=Sensitive]  
**Attachments:** ATTACHMENT Av2- TALKING POINTS AND Q&A.docx

Hi Tracey,

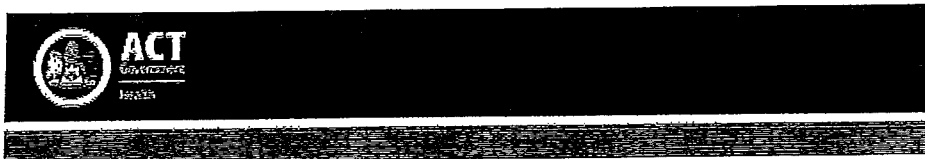
In follow-up, please find attached the unedited talking points that you prepared last time.

Kind regards,

Anita Rushall | Health Literacy Officer

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[facebook.com/ACTHealthDirectorate](https://facebook.com/ACTHealthDirectorate)

**From:** Arnold, Megan (Health)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 28 March 2018 11:55 AM  
**To:** Rushall, Anita (Health) <[Anita.Rushall@act.gov.au](mailto:Anita.Rushall@act.gov.au)>; Pulli, Tracey (Health) <[Tracey.Pulli@act.gov.au](mailto:Tracey.Pulli@act.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** pill testing documents [DLM=Sensitive]

Hi Anita and Tracey  
 Please see attached  
 Tanks very much

Megan Arnold  
 Senior Policy Officer  
 Health Improvement Projects  
 Population Health Protection and Prevention  
 ACT Health | Level 3, 4 Bowes Street | Woden ACT  
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## ATTACHMENT A- MEDIA TALKING POINTS AND Q&A

### Announcement of pill testing in the ACT

Date: Friday 22 September 2017

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#### Media talking points

##### General

- The ACT Government is allowing pill testing service to be provided at the Spilt Milk Music Festival in November 2017.
- The ACT Government is leading the way in becoming the first Australian jurisdiction to allow pill testing facilities at major music festival.
- The ACT Government is allowing a pill testing service to occur at Spilt Milk as a harm reduction measure to help people make more informed decisions before participating in risky behaviour.
- The safety and wellbeing of our young people and those attending music festivals is the main priority of the Government in allowing pill testing to occur.
- It is important to be clear that the ACT Government is not softening its approach to drugs and there are no proposed changes to legislation. It is illegal to possess, manufacture and distribute illicit drugs in the ACT.
- The ACT Government also does not approve or condone illicit drug use. Our message to the community will always be that it is dangerous to take illicit drugs.
- The pill testing at Spilt Milk will be provided by Safety and Testing & Advisory Service at Festivals and Events (STA-SAFE) as part of a broader suite of harm reduction services at the festival. STA-SAFE is a consortium of non-government organisations led by Harm Reductions Australia.
- STA-SAFE are providing and funding this service as an independent provider. The ACT government is not funding STA-SAFE to provide the service.
- At this time, pill testing will only be allowed to occur at Spilt Milk. Following the festival, the STA-SAFE will evaluate the pill testing service and provide this information to the ACT Government Working Group. The ACT Government will then consider the evaluation and determine if pill testing will be allowed to be provided by an independent provider at future festivals.
- Earlier this year, ACT Health together with Justice and Community Safety Directorate (JACS), ACT Ambulance Service (ACTAS) and ACT Policing formed the ACT Government's Working Group to examine the STA-SAFE proposal, as well as the broader public health, legal and social issues related to pill testing.
- The working group has undertaken significant consultation with relevant health sector stakeholders and interested local health professionals and there has been overwhelming support to allow pill testing to take place at this festival.



- We have also gained insights on the community's views on pill testing through the Canberra Omnibus Survey, which found nine in ten people (89.8%) say they support a harm reduction approach to pill testing at major festivals.

#### Pill testing

- Pill testing is a harm reduction service (also known as drug checking) that analyses the contents of drugs and helps you avoid taking unknown and potentially dangerous substances often found in illicit drugs.
- Pill testing will provide an opportunity for health professionals to give face to face education and advice to young people about the harm and risk of consuming illicit drugs and the potential toxicity of any unknown substances.
- As this health intervention is occurring prior to a young person taking the substance, it could be what changes their mind from taking the illicit substance and putting themselves at risk.

#### Pill testing at Spilt Milk

- The pill testing at Spilt Milk will be provided by Safety and Testing & Advisory Service at Festivals and Events (STA-SAFE) as part of a broader suite of harm reduction services at the festival.
  - STA-SAFE is a consortium of non-government organisations lead by Harm Reduction Australia.
  - HRA is a national membership based advocacy non-government organisation that supports harm reduction strategies in relation to drug use.
- The pill testing will be provided using mobile laboratory equipment free of charge as a component of a number of harm reduction services.
- The pill testing facilities will be provided by STA-SAFE for free.
- To reiterate there is no proposed changes to the legislative status of illicit drugs in the ACT. The possession, supply, and use of illicit drugs remains illegal in the ACT.
- However, pill testing is a method of harm minimisation and aims to keep people safe.

---

## Question and Answer for Minister

### **What is pill testing?**

Pill testing is a harm reduction service (also known as drug checking) that analyses the contents of drugs and helps you avoid taking unknown and potentially dangerous substances often found in illicit drugs.

Service staff test a small sample of your pill, then interpret and provide the results with information about the risks of consuming the substances identified in the sample.

### **What is harm reduction?**

Harm reduction includes measures aimed at reducing the adverse health, social and economic consequences of the use of drugs, for the user, their families and the wider community. Harm reduction makes up one of the three pillars of the balanced harm minimisation approach outlined in the National Drug Strategy 2017-2026.

### **How will pills be tested?**

The pill testing service will be conducted by volunteer medical staff and analytical chemists using a mobile laboratory. Patrons will be asked to undertake a pre-test self-assessment which will ask what patrons believe the substance is and to then provide a small scraping of the substance onto the test equipment.

After the pill has been tested, the staff will provide patrons with information regarding the results and discuss the risks of drug taking. Patrons will be given an opportunity to discard the illicit substance in the amnesty bin.

The composition of illicit drugs is highly variable and unpredictable. The makers of illicit drugs will frequently cut pills with other substances, or substitute other more dangerous drugs entirely. Drugs may also be produced and distributed in unfavourable environments.

Pill testing enables better risk management by consumers. It helps people make an informed decision on whether or not to take the drug if it is found to contain unexpected substances.

### **Where will the pill testing services be located?**

The STA-SAFE pill testing facility will be located in the medical precinct of the Spilt Milk festival, adjacent to first aid services and the ambulance service. The testing facility will be enclosed to provide privacy for people seeking to have their pills tested, similar to a medical cubicle.

### **What is an amnesty bin?**

Amnesty bins contain bleach, which completely destroy any drugs deposited in them to the extent that they could not be recovered or used. The substances could then be disposed of as standard medical waste.

### **Who will be doing the pill testing?**

Pill testing at the Spilt Milk festival will be provided by the Safety and Testing and Advisory Service at Festivals and Events (STA-SAFE). STA-SAFE is a consortium of non-government organisations lead by Harm Reduction Australia (HRA).

HRA is a national membership based advocacy non-government organisation that supports harm reduction strategies in relation to drug use. The pill testing will be provided using mobile laboratory equipment free of charge as a component of a number of harm reduction services.

### **Does pill testing promote or condone drug use?**

No evidence suggests that people don't end up consuming more illicit substances as a result of a pill-testing service. Pill testing services are a unique opportunity to effectively encourage people who use illicit drugs to modify their behaviours in ways that reduce risks of harm to their health.

There is no evidence that providing pill testing leads to increased drug dealing, or drug use, at festivals. This is consistent with the high levels of illicit drug use reported in this setting regardless of the presence of pill testing.

It is important to be clear that the ACT Government is not softening its approach to drugs and there are no proposed changes to legislation. It is illegal to possess, manufacture and distribute illicit drugs in the ACT.

Our message to the community will always be that it is dangerous to take illicit drugs.

**THIS TEXT HAS NOT BEEN APPROVED BY STA-SAFE. CHIEF HEALTH OFFICER IS NOT ABLE TO APPROVE AS IT IS NOT HIS CONTENT AREA. WE WOULD NEED PERMISSION TO SPEAK TO STA-SAFE TO CONFIRM THIS IS APPROPRIATE MESSAGE.**

**How will this service be evaluated and what is evaluation timeframe?**

STA SAFE will provide all stakeholders with a report of the pill testing service following the event.

The report will include data on:

- the number of basic demographics (age, gender, etc.), information on substances to be tested and expectations;
- information on the actual substances detected in circulation at the festival/event; and
- information on the type and quality of services provided.

**When will the ACT Government make a decision going forward about pill testing for upcoming festivals?**

Proposals for future pill testing services in the ACT will be assessed on their merits, along with the results of the STA-SAFE service from Spilt Milk.

**How will pill testing be governed?**

Pill testing will be incorporated into the Spilt Milk event risk management plan as a mitigation strategy to reduce harm of illicit drug use for patrons attending.

The STA-SAFE volunteers will work with the event owner, ACT Policing and ACT Ambulance Service to integrate the harm reduction service into the event footprint.

**THIS TEXT HAS NOT BEEN APPROVED BY SPILT MILK ORGANISERS, ACT POLICING AND ACT AMBULANCE. CHIEF HEALTH OFFICER IS NOT ABLE TO APPROVE AS IT IS NOT HIS CONTENT AREA. WE WOULD NEED PERMISSION TO SPEAK TO THE SPILT MILK ORGANISERS, ACT POLICING AND ACT AMBULANCE TO CONFIRM THIS IS APPROPRIATE MESSAGE.**

**Do the Spilt Milk organisers support this decision?**

The electronic music industry have been calling for a pill testing service in Australia for a number of years.

**Do ACT Policing and ACT Ambulance support this decision?**

ACT Health has worked closely with Justice and Community Safety Directorate (JACS), ACT Ambulance Service (ACTAS) and ACT Policing through the ACT Government's Working Group.

**How much is this costing the ACT Government?**

The ACT Government is not funding the pill testing to occur at Spilt Milk. STA-SAFE are providing and funding this service as an independent provider.

**If someone ingests a pill deemed safe but dies is the government liable?**

No pill will ever be deemed safe by the pill testing service. The STA-SAFE staff will emphasise the message that “all drug use carries an inherent risk” and that “pill testing cannot provide evidence of safety”.

The likelihood of a patron having an adverse outcome from illicit drug use is reduced if they accessed the pill testing service as they would be given information on the risks associated with illicit drug use and given an opportunity to discard the pill.

It is also likely that the pre-hospital and hospital treatment would be expedited for a patron that has used a pill testing service and was suffering an adverse event. This is because both paramedics and emergency department physicians would have access to detailed information on what substances the patron had likely ingested.

**Do you expect a larger intake of illicit drugs at this festival?**

No. Evidence would suggest that people don't end up consuming more illicit substances as a result of a pill testing service. Pill testing services are actually a unique opportunity to effectively encourage people who use illicit drugs to modify their behaviours in ways that reduce risks of harm to their health.

Harm-reduction approaches can be controversial but they represent pragmatic solutions to a range of health needs.

**Will extra ambulance services be available?**

The ACT Ambulance Service was represented on the cross government working group that considered the STA-SAFE proposal.

ACTAS resources are pre deployed to all major mass gathering events in the ACT as a public safety precaution. The operational requirements for the Spilt Milk event will be determined by ACTAS in conjunction with the event provider.

**Is there community support for pill testing?**

ACT Health together with Justice and Community Safety Directorate (JACS), ACT Ambulance Service (ACTAS) and ACT Policing formed a cross government working group. The working group has undertaken significant consultation that was overwhelmingly in favour of pill testing being allowed to take place in the ACT.

Consultation with the wider Canberra community in the form of a Canberra Omnibus Survey run by Winton Sustainable Research Strategies found nine in ten people (89.8%) say they support a harm reduction approach.

**What do you make of the statement made by Premiers in other states who are taking a hard line approach to drug usage and not allowing pill testing to take place?**

Harm reduction is a strategy used in medicine and social policy to minimise harm to individuals and/or wider society from hazardous behaviours or practices that cannot be completely avoided or prevented by law enforcement alone.

Focusing on demand and supply reduction through law enforcement is only part of the solution. The National Drug Strategy 2017-2026 advocates a balanced harm minimisation approach including harm

reduction strategies. Pill testing represents a solution to reducing the risk of avoidable death and disability among young people through illicit drug use.

The safety and wellbeing of our young people and those attending music festivals is the main priority of the Government in allowing pill testing to occur.

#### **Will people be arrested if using the pill testing services?**

**THIS TEXT HAS NOT BEEN APPROVED BY ACT POLICING. CHIEF HEALTH OFFICER IS NOT ABLE TO APPROVE AS IT IS NOT HIS CONTENT AREA. WE WOULD NEED PERMISSION TO SPEAK TO ACT POLICING TO CONFIRM THIS IS APPROPRIATE MESSAGE.**

Firstly, it is important to emphasise that pill testing is being allowed to occur at the festival as a harm reduction measure. We want to ensure our young people are making more informed decisions about their health and wellbeing before participating in risky behaviour. It will also be one of a number of established harm minimization measures in place at the festival.

ACT Health has worked closely with our law enforcement agencies as part of the Cross Government Working Group where these types of issues have been worked through.

Law enforcement will not interfere with the conduct of pill testing at the Spilt Milk festival. However they will have a strong presence at the festival as part of their usual law enforcement activities at such events.

It is important to be very clear that the possession, supply, and manufacture of illicit drugs remain illegal in the ACT and at the festival.

Allowing pill testing to occur is about providing a health intervention prior to a young person taking a substance, which could be what changes their mind from taking the illicit substance and putting themselves at risk.

#### **Is from illicit drug use common at ACT events?**

Adverse health events from the consumption of illicit drugs and alcohol occur commonly at music festivals. Five drug related deaths were reported occurring at Australian music festivals in 2015 with the ages of the deceased ranging from 19-26 years.

Data from the ACT Ambulance Service (ACTAS) from the 'Groovin' the Moo' festival held in May 2016, shows that of the 30 patients treated on-site by ACTAS during the event, 25 were drug and alcohol related. Eleven patients with drug overdose (including psycho stimulation) were treated by ACTAS at this event.

#### **Does pill testing make taking illicit drug use safe?**

No. Pill testing services operate on a harm reduction principle. The service will provide you with information on the contents, the risks involved, and how to reduce them. Even with laboratory level testing, service staff never advise users that the drug they are taking is 'safe.'

Also, chemical analysis is also not able to determine with certainty whether a person will have a toxic reaction to taking a pill, although certain contaminants are highly toxic and likely to cause harm if ingested. Illicit drugs such as amphetamines and MDMA are inherently unsafe and pill testing cannot certify that a person will not suffer an adverse reaction as a result of taking them.

#### **Are legislative changes needed to allow pill testing to happen in the ACT?**

STA-SAFE has not proposed any change to the legislative status of illicit drugs in the ACT. The possession, supply, and manufacture of illicit drugs remains illegal in the ACT. However, pill testing is a method of harm minimisation and aims to keep people safe.

**What evidence is available that pill testing actually reduces harm?**

Available evidence indicates that providing consumers with information about the content of illegal drugs they intend to ingest can reduce rates of overdose or toxicity from unknown substances.

A recent published review of pill testing by an NGO at eight festivals in New Zealand analysed 330 samples. The testing service identified 39 different psychoactive substances. More than 75 per cent of patrons believed their substance was MDMA or LSD. Only 66 per cent of samples were actually MDMA or LSD, and 38 per cent of samples were not exactly what patrons believed them to be. The NGO reported the impact on patron's behaviour being significant with patrons making more considered and safer decisions. 63 per cent of patrons indicated they did not intend to take the drug when they learnt it was not what was expected.

The available literature does not provide evidence that pill testing prevents deaths among festival patrons. Any such effect would be difficult to study due to the unpredictable nature of adverse events from illicit drug consumption.

**Cramond, Sarah (Health)**

---

**From:** Arnold, Megan (Health)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 28 March 2018 4:28 PM  
**To:** Harper, Emily (Health); Dennis, Kathy (Health)  
**Subject:** FW: Final: Media talking points pill testing [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED, DLM=Sensitive: Cabinet]  
**Attachments:** Media talking points - Pill testing trial at Groovin the Moo - as at 28 March 2018\_FINAL.doc; Media talking points - Pill testing trial at Groovin the Moo - as at 28 March 2018\_FINAL with HIP tracked changes.doc

Hi Emily,  
 Kathy and I have made adjustments to the media talking points provided.  
 Please see both attached.  
 Thanks

**From:** Rushall, Anita (Health)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 28 March 2018 4:14 PM  
**To:** Arnold, Megan (Health) <Megan.Arnold@act.gov.au>; Dennis, Kathy (Health) <Kathy.Dennis@act.gov.au>  
**Cc:** Douglas, Cynthia (Health) <Cynthia.Douglas@act.gov.au>; Pulli, Tracey (Health) <Tracey.Pulli@act.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Final: Media talking points pill testing [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED, DLM=Sensitive: Cabinet]

Hi Megan, Kathy,

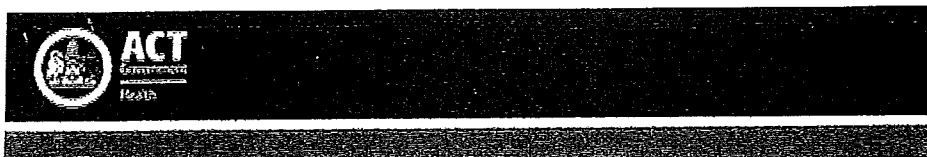
Please find attached the media talking points for pill testing at GTM.

Kind regards,

Anita Rushall | Health Literacy Officer

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## Media talking points

**SUBJECT:** Pill testing trial at Groovin the Moo

**ISSUE:** Media interest on pill testing not going ahead at the music festival in April 2018

### Talking points:

- The ACT Government is aware of the decision by the promoters of Groovin the Moo (GTM) not to support a pill testing trial at this year's festival.
- This is disappointing. The Government had evaluated the proposal by independent consortium STA-SAFE for the controlled trial to take place and were supportive of it occurring.
- Pill testing at music festivals has never been done in Australia.
- The very clear message from the ACT Government is 'don't do drugs'.
- Pill testing is a harm reduction intervention which offers free analysis of the chemical composition of substances surrendered for testing.
- Allowing pill testing to occur is about providing a health intervention prior to a young person taking a substance, which could be what changes their mind from taking the illicit substance and putting themselves at risk.
- The ACT Government continues to support a controlled trial of pill testing, conducted by an independent consortium.
- Should the STA-SAFE consortium present a proposal to conduct a controlled trial at another festival, the ACT Government will again consider the proposal on its merits.
- We would welcome the opportunity to work with other events that would be open to supporting a pill testing trial.

#### *If asked about Cattleyard's requirements:*

- The ACT Government evaluated the proposal by independent consortium STA-SAFE for a controlled trial to take place at GTM and determined that a trial was appropriate to occur at that event.
- Through our Cross Government Working Group, we have worked closely with our law enforcement agencies.
- Law enforcement has indicated it will not interfere with the conduct of a pill testing trial. However they would maintain a strong presence at any music festival as part of their usual law enforcement activities at such events.
- It is important to be very clear that the possession, supply, and manufacture of illicit drugs remain illegal in the ACT and at the festival.
- The ACT Government also does not approve or condone illicit drug use. Our message to the community will always be that it is dangerous to take illicit drugs.



- Allowing pill testing to occur is about providing a health intervention prior to a young person taking a substance, which could be what changes their mind from taking the illicit substance and putting themselves at risk.

#### Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry

- A Parliamentary Committee Inquiry in Victoria investigating laws and regulation of illicit drugs have recently released a report.
- The report proposes authorities, but not festival goers, have access to "back-of-house" testing of substances so they can treat patients and issue alerts to the public to prevent other incidents.
- Link to ABC article: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-03-27/call-for-back-of-house-pill-testing-at-music-festivals/9591392>

#### *If asked if this proposal is something the ACT Government would consider:*

- The ACT Government supports a controlled trial of pill testing, conducted by an independent consortium.
- Should the STA-SAFE consortium present a proposal to conduct a controlled trial at another festival, the ACT Government will again consider the proposal on its merits.
- We would welcome the opportunity to work with other events that would be open to supporting a pill testing trial.
- The ACT Government is committed to minimising the harms associated with recreational and illicit drug use and will continue to pursue harm reduction measures.

---

#### **FURTHER BACKGROUND:**

- In February 2018, the STA-SAFE consortium submitted a proposal to conduct a pill testing trial at the GTM music festival at the University of Canberra on 29 April 2018.
  - STA-SAFE is a consortium of non-government organisations led by Harm Reduction Australia.
- ACT Health reconvened the Cross Government Pill Testing Working Group to examine the STA-SAFE proposal.
- As part of this, the Working Group undertook significant consultation with relevant stakeholders, including STA-SAFE, the University of Canberra and Cattleyard Promotions, the GTM promoter.
- The pill testing trial would only be able to be successfully implemented with the full support of all the relevant stakeholders.
- With the requirements identified to secure full support of all parties not able to be met, the Government has been advised that it is unlikely the pill testing trial could be undertaken at GTM this year.

## Media talking points

**SUBJECT:** Pill testing trial at Groovin the Moo

**ISSUE:** Media interest on pill testing not going ahead at the music festival in April 2018

### Talking points:

- ~~The ACT Government is aware of the decision by the promoters of Groovin the Moo (GTM) not to support a pill testing trial at this year's festival that pill testing at Groovin the moo will not be going ahead.~~
- This is disappointing. The Government had evaluated the proposal by independent consortium STA-SAFE for the controlled trial to take place. The ACT Government continues to provide a supportive policy environment for a controlled trial of pill testing, conducted by an independent consortium.
- ~~and were supportive of it occurring.~~
- Formal Pill testing at music festivals has never been done in Australia.
- The very clear message from the ACT Government is 'don't do drugs'.
- Pill testing is a harm reduction intervention which offers free analysis of the chemical composition of substances surrendered for testing.
- Allowing pill testing to occur is about providing a health intervention prior to a young person taking a substance, which could be what changes their mind from taking the illicit substance and putting themselves at risk.
- ~~The ACT Government continues to support a controlled trial of pill testing, conducted by an independent consortium.~~
- Should the STA-SAFE consortium present a proposal to conduct a controlled trial at another festival, the ACT Government will again consider the proposal on its merits.
- We would welcome the opportunity to work with other events that would be open to supporting a pill testing trial.

#### If asked about Cattleyard's requirements:

- ~~The ACT Government evaluated the proposal by independent consortium STA-SAFE for a controlled trial to take place at GTM, and determined that a trial was appropriate to occur at that event.~~
- Through our Cross Government Working Group, we have worked closely with our law enforcement agencies.
- Law enforcement has indicated it will not interfere with the conduct of a pill testing trial. However they would maintain a strong presence at any music festival as part of their usual law enforcement activities at such events.
- It is important to be very clear that the possession, supply, and manufacture of illicit drugs remain illegal in the ACT and at the festival.

Formatted: Bulleted + Level: 1 + Aligned at: 0.63 cm +  
Indent at: 1.27 cm

- The ACT Government also does not approve or condone illicit drug use. Our message to the community will always be that it is dangerous to take illicit drugs.
- Allowing pill testing to occur is about providing a health intervention prior to a young person taking a substance, which could be what changes their mind from taking the illicit substance and putting themselves at risk.

#### Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry

- A Parliamentary Committee Inquiry in Victoria investigating laws and regulation of illicit drugs have recently released a report.
- The report proposes authorities, but not festival goers, have access to "back-of-house" testing of substances so they can treat patients and issue alerts to the public to prevent other incidents.
- Link to ABC article: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-03-27/call-for-back-of-house-pill-testing-at-music-festivals/9591392>

#### If asked if this proposal is something the ACT Government would consider:

- ~~The ACT Government supports a controlled trial of pill testing, conducted by an independent consortium.~~
- ~~Should the STA-SAFE consortium present a proposal to conduct a controlled trial at another festival, the ACT Government will again consider the proposal on its merits.~~
- ~~We would welcome the opportunity to work with other events that would be open to supporting a pill testing trial.~~
- The ACT Government is committed to minimising the harms associated with recreational and illicit drug use and will continue to pursue harm reduction measures.

---

#### **FURTHER BACKGROUND:**

- In February 2018, the STA-SAFE consortium submitted a proposal to conduct a pill testing trial at the GTM music festival at the University of Canberra on 29 April 2018.
  - STA-SAFE is a consortium of non-government organisations led by Harm Reduction Australia.
- ACT Health reconvened the Cross Government Pill Testing Working Group to examine the STA-SAFE proposal.
- As part of this, the Working Group undertook significant consultation with relevant stakeholders, including STA-SAFE, the University of Canberra and Cattleyard Promotions, the GTM promoter.
- The pill testing trial would only be able to be successfully implemented with the full support of all the relevant stakeholders.

- With the requirements identified to secure full support of all parties not able to be met, the Government has been advised that it is unlikely the pill testing trial ~~could~~ cannot be undertaken at GTM this year.

**Cramond, Sarah (Health)**

---

**From:** Rushall, Anita (Health)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 28 March 2018 4:14 PM  
**To:** Arnold, Megan (Health); Dennis, Kathy (Health)  
**Cc:** Douglas, Cynthia (Health); Pulli, Tracey (Health)  
**Subject:** Final: Media talking points pill testing [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED, DLM=Sensitive: Cabinet]  
**Attachments:** Media talking points - Pill testing trial at Groovin the Moo - as at 28 March 2018\_FINAL.doc

Hi Megan, Kathy,

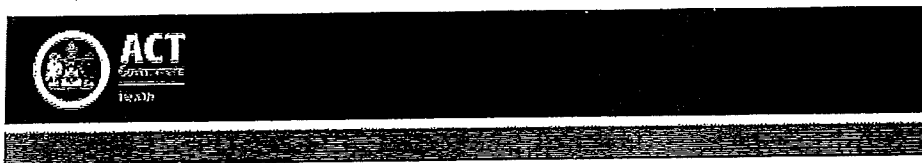
Please find attached the media talking points for pill testing at GTM.

Kind regards,

Anita Rushall | Health Literacy Officer

*Care ▲ Excellence ▲ Collaboration ▲ Integrity*

Level 3, 2-6 Bowes Street Woden 2606  
PO Box 11, Woden ACT 2606  
Phone: 6205 9281 Email: [anita.rushall@act.gov.au](mailto:anita.rushall@act.gov.au)



@ACTHealth



[facebook.com/ACTHealthDirectorate](https://www.facebook.com/ACTHealthDirectorate)

**Cramond, Sarah (Health)**

---

**From:** Milenkovic, Katarina (Health)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 29 March 2018 11:42 AM  
**To:** Pulli, Tracey (Health)  
**Subject:** ABC Radio Interview - Mick Palmer, former AFP Commissioner on pill testing  
**Attachments:** image001.png; image002.gif; image003.jpg; x00074113807 (2).wma

Hi Tracey,

As requested, please find attached the audio recording of the interview with Mick Palmer on pill testing.

Kind regards,

Katarina Milenkovic

Media Officer | Strategic Communications and Media

Government and Communications | Level 3, 6 Bowes Street Phillip ACT 2606  
Ph: (02) 6205 1785 | Email: katarina.milenkovic@act.gov.au <mailto:katarina.milenkovic@act.gov.au>

<[https://twitter.com/ESDD\\_Comms](https://twitter.com/ESDD_Comms)> @ACTHealth <<https://twitter.com/ACTHealth>>  
<<http://www.facebook.com/actgovesdd>> facebook.com/ACTHealth  
<<https://www.facebook.com/ACTHealthDirectorate?ref=hl>> Directorate

**Cramond, Sarah (Health)**

---

**From:** Pulli, Tracey (Health)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 4 April 2018 12:25 PM  
**To:** Hall, Lauren  
**Cc:** Johnston, ClaireV  
**Subject:** RE: Pill testing comms [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi Lauren

Just tried to call. Sorry but I just want to clarify as not sure what work this is. Last week, we provided TPs to the office with the draft letters.

Happy to chat further about it and any further work that is needed.

Cheers

Tracey

Tracey Pulli

Deputy Director of Media | ACT Health

P | [REDACTED] M | [REDACTED]

E | [tracey.pulli@act.gov.au](mailto:tracey.pulli@act.gov.au) <<mailto:tracey.pulli@act.gov.au>>

URL | [www.health.act.gov.au](http://www.health.act.gov.au) <<http://www.health.act.gov.au>>

From: Hall, Lauren  
Sent: Wednesday, 4 April 2018 12:04 PM  
To: Pulli, Tracey (Health) <[Tracey.Pulli@act.gov.au](mailto:Tracey.Pulli@act.gov.au)>  
Cc: Johnston, ClaireV <[ClaireV.Johnston@act.gov.au](mailto:ClaireV.Johnston@act.gov.au)>  
Subject: Pill testing comms

Hi Tracey

The MO has asked me to remind you that they would like to see a government response/some TPs so that we are ready to respond to media immediately after sending the final Cattleyard letters.

Let me know if you need any further information.

Cheers

Lauren



**Cramond, Sarah (Health)**

---

**From:** McNeill, Laura (Health)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 5 April 2018 4:34 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]@cattleyard.com  
**Cc:** Kelly, Paul (Health); Harper, Emily (Health)  
**Subject:** Letter from Paul Kelly regarding the STA-SAFE pill testing trial proposal [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]  
**Attachments:** Letter from Paul Kelly regarding STA-SAFE pill testing trial proposal.pdf  
**Importance:** High

Dear Ms [REDACTED]

Please find a letter from Dr Paul Kelly regarding the STA-SAFE pill testing trial proposal.

Paul and Emily will contact you shortly.

Kind regards

**Laura McNeill**

Executive Officer | Executive Support Office | Population Health Protection & Prevention | ACT Health  
Ph: 02) 6207 1781 | Mob: [REDACTED] Fax: 02) 6205 1884 | [laura.mcneill@act.gov.au](mailto:laura.mcneill@act.gov.au)



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[REDACTED]  
 Cattleyard Promotions  
 [REDACTED]@cattleyard.com

Dear Ms [REDACTED]

### **STA-SAFE pill testing trial proposal at Groovin the Moo Canberra 2018**

Thank you for your engagement in discussions with the ACT Government regarding the STA-SAFE proposal to trial a pill testing service at Groovin the Moo Canberra on 29 April 2018. Thank you also for providing a list of your requirements on 26 February 2018. You have indicated that Cattleyard Promotions' support for the trial is contingent on each of these requirements being met.

The most significant of these requirements is to have indemnity from prosecution provided to all patrons of the pill testing service. As raised with you previously in discussions, ACT legislation does not allow for police officers to be directed to ignore illegal activity or to not act on their reasonable suspicion of illegal activity.

ACT Policing have confirmed that their policy at the festival would include not specifically targeting patrons in the vicinity of the pill testing area. ACT Policing are supportive of pill testing as a harm minimisation strategy and are keen for the trial to run smoothly for everyone involved, including young people using a service which would be available for the first time.

Could you please confirm as soon as possible whether, given our advice above, your position on the policing issue and its impact on your support for the pill testing trial remains unchanged? A meeting with yourself and relevant government personnel to discuss this and other issues can be arranged if this is considered useful in alleviating your concerns.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Kelly".

Dr Paul Kelly  
 Chief Health Officer & Deputy Director-General  
 Chair, ACT Government Pill Testing Working Group  
 Population Health Protection and Prevention

5 April 2018

**Cramond, Sarah (Health)**

---

**From:** Johnston, ClaireV  
**Sent:** Thursday, 12 April 2018 1:35 PM  
**To:** Health Media  
**Subject:** RE: Pill testing [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Thanks

From: Jean, David (Health) On Behalf Of Health Media  
Sent: Thursday, 12 April 2018 1:35 PM  
To: Johnston, ClaireV <ClaireV.Johnston@act.gov.au>  
Subject: FW: Pill testing [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hey Claire as an FYI.

David Jean

Media Manager | ACT Health

P | [REDACTED] M | [REDACTED]

E | david.jean@act.gov.au

URL | [www.health.act.gov.au](http://www.health.act.gov.au) <<http://www.health.act.gov.au>>

From: [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]@abc.net.au]  
Sent: Thursday, 12 April 2018 1:32 PM  
To: Health Media <HealthMedia@act.gov.au>  
Subject: Pill testing

As discussed, hoping to confirm the CHO wrote to the promoters of GTM (Cattleyard) outlining the health benefits of pill testing at the upcoming festival.

If so, is it possible to have a copy of the letter?

Thanks for your help.



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**Cramond, Sarah (Health)**

---

**From:** Pulli, Tracey (Health)  
**Sent:** Friday, 13 April 2018 10:42 AM  
**To:** Kelly, Paul (Health); Harper, Emily (Health)  
**Cc:** Tobler, Elizabeth (Health); Health Media; Dal Molin, Vanessa (Health)  
**Subject:** FW: RATTENBURY: Pill testing to "potentially save lives" – Open letter urges Cattleyard Promotions to back trial [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]  
**Attachments:** image005.jpg

Hi Paul and Emily

Vanessa – for DG's info.

Please see below, statement from the ACT Greens on pill testing.

Cheers

Tracey

Tracey Pulli

Deputy Director of Media | ACT Health

P | [REDACTED] M | [REDACTED]

E | [tracey.pulli@act.gov.au](mailto:tracey.pulli@act.gov.au) <<mailto:tracey.pulli@act.gov.au>>

URL | [www.health.act.gov.au](http://www.health.act.gov.au) <<http://www.health.act.gov.au>>

From: Gardner, Lisa  
Sent: Friday, 13 April 2018 8:46 AM  
Subject: RATTENBURY: Pill testing to "potentially save lives" – Open letter urges Cattleyard Promotions to back trial

MEDIA RELEASE

Shane Rattenbury MLA, ACT Greens Member for Kurrajong

Pill testing to “potentially save lives” – Open letter urges Cattleyard Promotions to back trial

Friday 13 April 2018

Today, the ACT Greens have joined with some of the nation’s leading drug law reform and harm minimisation experts, to call on the promoters of the Groovin The Moo (GTM) festival to commit to a pill testing trial and “potentially save lives”.

With only weeks to go before the festival, the open letter <<http://keepcanberrasafe.org.au/>> sends a strong and clear message from across the health, community services and music sectors that reaffirms the need for pill testing as an evidence-based public health initiative.

“For too long, our young people have been at risk from unknown and contaminated drugs. Each year, we are seeing young people being hospitalised, or worse, after consuming contaminated or unknown drugs at clubs and music festivals,” the signatories wrote.

“This is an opportunity for Groovin The Moo to be a leader in the festival industry by supporting an evidence-based approach and allowing a pill testing trial at this year’s Canberra festival.

“We urge you to support this important public health initiative, and in doing so, potentially save lives at this year’s event.

“Informed by advice from experts and using laboratory grade equipment, a pill testing trial at your festival has the support of ACT Health and ACT Policing, and the ACT Government has given its support after an extensive risk assessment process and receipt of the relevant legal advice.

“We know that there is significant support for pill testing amongst young Australians, with a recent survey showing that more than 85% of respondents supported free on-site pill testing being available, and more than 80% believing that it would help drug users seek help to reduce harm.”

“This is a unique and urgent opportunity to potentially save lives, and protect our young people from real harm,” said ACT Greens Spokesperson for Drug Law Reform Shane Rattenbury.

"A pill testing trial will make this, and other festivals, safer places to be. Our hope is that the promoter will also see the importance, the urgency and the opportunity of protecting our young people from the well-known risks associated with illicit drug consumption."

It comes as an independent review of Australia's National Drug Strategy has found [https://eurekaalert.org/pub\\_releases/2018-04/bc-rbr040418.php](https://eurekaalert.org/pub_releases/2018-04/bc-rbr040418.php) that on-site testing of 'party drug' pills could reduce the harms caused by drug use and potentially save lives.

In January nine people were taken to hospital, some in critical condition, after being treated for suspected drug overdoses at a music festival in Melbourne.

In recent weeks, a parliamentary inquiry in Victoria found that pill testing should be introduced at music festivals to help emergency workers <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-03-27/call-for-back-of-house-pill-testing-at-music-festivals/9591392> treat patients who had likely overdosed.

Mr Rattenbury will be made available for interview today at 2pm at the Legislative Assembly – further details available on request. The Groovin The Moo festival will take place in Canberra on Sunday 29 April.

Statement ends

Lisa Gardner



E [lisa.gardner@act.gov.au](mailto:lisa.gardner@act.gov.au)

[REDACTED]

From: Harper, Emily (Health)  
 Sent: Friday, 13 April 2018 11:25 AM  
 To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@cattleyard.com>  
 Cc: Kelly, Paul (Health) <Paul.Kelly@act.gov.au>; McNeill, Laura (Health) <Laura.McNeill@act.gov.au>; Attridge, Vanessa <VanessaS.Attridge@act.gov.au>  
 Subject: RE: Letter from Paul Kelly regarding the STA-SAFE pill testing trial proposal [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Good Morning [REDACTED]

Many thanks for sending this through. We will be in touch soon, and look forward to receiving further feedback on the Letter of Indemnity when available.

Kind regards,

*Emily Harper*

Executive Director, Health Improvement Branch  
 Population Health Protection and Prevention | ACT Health  
 PH 6205 2245 | MOB [REDACTED] | FAX 6205 1884  
 2-6 Bowes Street, PHILLIP ACT 2606 | GPO Box 825, Canberra City ACT 2601  
 E [emily.harper@act.gov.au](mailto:emily.harper@act.gov.au)



From: [REDACTED] <[mailto:[REDACTED]@cattleyard.com]>  
 Sent: Friday, 13 April 2018 10:32 AM  
 To: Harper, Emily (Health) <Emily.Harper@act.gov.au>  
 Cc: Kelly, Paul (Health) <Paul.Kelly@act.gov.au>; McNeill, Laura (Health) <Laura.McNeill@act.gov.au>; Attridge, Vanessa <VanessaS.Attridge@act.gov.au>  
 Subject: Re: Letter from Paul Kelly regarding the STA-SAFE pill testing trial proposal [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi Emily, Paul, Laura and Vanessa,



The feedback from our Insurer is as follows:

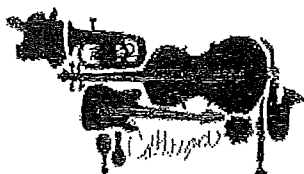
- STA-SAFE CONSORTIUM have only supplied Association Liability and Voluntary Workers Accident insurance
- The Association Liability covers Professional Indemnity – we will need something in writing from their Insurer confirming that this policy covers the pill testing activities (certificate just states “social services” as the activity insured)
- We will also need to see a copy of the public liability insurance which shows that they are covered for pill testing activities, and that the policy is for 20 million dollars

Also noting there will be further feedback provided on the Letter of Indemnity, I will send this through once I have it.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]@cattleyard.com

[cattleyard.com](http://cattleyard.com) | [gtm.net.au](http://gtm.net.au) | [theplot.co](http://theplot.co)  
Suite 4/ 50 Reservoir St  
Surry Hills, NSW 2010

On 10 Apr 2018, at 1:28 pm, Harper, Emily (Health) <[Emily.Harper@act.gov.au](mailto:Emily.Harper@act.gov.au)> wrote:

Many thanks [REDACTED]

Look forward to receiving your feedback shortly. Please do be in touch if we can assist further in the interim.

Kind regards,

*Emily Harper*

Executive Director, Health Improvement Branch  
Population Health Protection and Prevention | ACT Health  
PH 6205 2245 | MOB [REDACTED] | FAX 6205 1884  
2-6 Bowes Street, PHILLIP ACT 2606 | GPO Box 825, Canberra City ACT 2601  
E [emily.harper@act.gov.au](mailto:emily.harper@act.gov.au)  
<image001.jpg>

From: [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]@cattleyard.com]  
Sent: Tuesday, 10 April 2018 1:27 PM  
To: Harper, Emily (Health) <Emily.Harper@act.gov.au>  
Cc: Kelly, Paul (Health) <Paul.Kelly@act.gov.au>; McNeill, Laura (Health) <Laura.McNeill@act.gov.au>  
Subject: Re: Letter from Paul Kelly regarding the STA-SAFE pill testing trial proposal  
[SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]  
Importance: High

Hi Emily,

Confirming I have received this now. Thank you for the re-send, the first email had gone straight into a folder.

As discussed on the phone this morning, we will combine feedback from our insurer and our feedback on the plans and send it all across to Vanessa from the Minister's office with you all on copy.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

<image002.png>

[REDACTED]@cattleyard.com

[cattleyard.com](http://cattleyard.com) | [qtm.net.au](http://qtm.net.au) | [theplot.co](http://theplot.co)  
Suite 4/ 50 Reservoir St  
Surry Hills, NSW 2010

On 10 Apr 2018, at 11:11 am, Harper, Emily (Health) <Emily.Harper@act.gov.au> wrote:

Good Morning [REDACTED]

Thanks for your time earlier this morning.

I am resending the letter sent by Dr Kelly last Friday as discussed.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you wish to discuss further.

Kind regards,

*Emily Harper*

Executive Director, Health Improvement Branch  
Population Health Protection and Prevention | ACT Health

PH 6205 2245 | MOB [REDACTED] | FAX 6205 1884  
 2-6 Bowes Street, PHILLIP ACT 2606 | GPO Box 825, Canberra City ACT 2601  
 E [emily.harper@act.gov.au](mailto:emily.harper@act.gov.au)  
 <image007.jpg>

**From:** McNeill, Laura (Health) **On Behalf Of** Kelly, Paul (Health)  
**Sent:** Friday, 6 April 2018 4:55 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@cattleyard.com>  
**Cc:** Kelly, Paul (Health) <[Paul.Kelly@act.gov.au](mailto:Paul.Kelly@act.gov.au)>; Harper, Emily (Health) <[Emily.Harper@act.gov.au](mailto:Emily.Harper@act.gov.au)>; Attridge, Vanessa <[VanessaS.Attridge@act.gov.au](mailto:VanessaS.Attridge@act.gov.au)>; McNeill, Laura (Health) <[Laura.McNeill@act.gov.au](mailto:Laura.McNeill@act.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: Letter from Paul Kelly regarding the STA-SAFE pill testing trial proposal [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Dear Ms [REDACTED]

Please find attached additional information from Dr Paul Kelly as requested.

Kind regards  
 Laura McNeill  
 Obo

***Dr Paul Kelly***

ACT Chief Health Officer & Deputy Director-General |  
 Population Health Protection & Prevention | ACT Health Directorate  
 PH 02 6205 2108 | E [paul.kelly@act.gov.au](mailto:paul.kelly@act.gov.au)  
 <image008.jpg> Paul Kelly - ACT CHO (@PKelly\_ACTCHO) on Twitter  
<http://www.health.act.gov.au/healthy-living/population-health>

<image009.png><image005.jpg>

**From:** [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@cattleyard.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@cattleyard.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, 6 April 2018 11:43 AM  
**To:** McNeill, Laura (Health) <[Laura.McNeill@act.gov.au](mailto:Laura.McNeill@act.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** Kelly, Paul (Health) <[Paul.Kelly@act.gov.au](mailto:Paul.Kelly@act.gov.au)>; Harper, Emily (Health) <[Emily.Harper@act.gov.au](mailto:Emily.Harper@act.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Re: Letter from Paul Kelly regarding the STA-SAFE pill testing trial proposal [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]  
**Importance:** High

Hi Paul,

Thank you for sending this letter through and for confirming in writing the position of ACT Policing.

Aside from this one requirement, could you please confirm whether all the other requirements are able to be met with the relevant approvals in place and insurances available? If they are, could you please send the paperwork through along with the submission?

Kind regards,  
 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

<image006.png>

[REDACTED]@cattleyard.com

[REDACTED]

cattleyard.com | gtm.net.au | theplot.co  
 Suite 4/ 50 Reservoir St  
 Surry Hills, NSW 2010

On 5 Apr 2018, at 4:33 pm, McNeill, Laura (Health)  
 <Laura.McNeill@act.gov.au> wrote:

Dear M [REDACTED]

Please find a letter from Dr Paul Kelly regarding the STA-SAFE pill testing trial proposal.

Paul and Emily will contact you shortly.  
 Kind regards

**Laura McNeill**

Executive Officer | Executive Support Office | Population  
 Health Protection & Prevention | ACT Health

Ph: 02) 6207 1781 | Mob: [REDACTED] | Fax: 02) 6205 1884

| [laura.mcneill@act.gov.au](mailto:laura.mcneill@act.gov.au)

<image001.jpg>

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<Letter from Paul Kelly regarding STA-SAFE pill testing trial proposal.pdf>

<Letter from Paul Kelly regarding requirements in relation to STA-SAFE pill testing trial.pdf>

**From:** Harper, Emily (Health)  
**Sent:** Friday, 20 April 2018 2:08 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@cattleyard.com>  
**Cc:** Kelly, Paul (Health) <Paul.Kelly@act.gov.au>; McNeill, Laura (Health) <Laura.McNeill@act.gov.au>; Attridge, Vanessa <VanessaS.Attridge@act.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: Letter from Paul Kelly regarding the STA-SAFE pill testing trial proposal [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi [REDACTED]

As discussed earlier and again just now, I can confirm that the views of the parties listed below remain consistent with those outlined in Dr Kelly's letter of 6 April.

With specific regard to your earlier queries regarding liquor licensing, I am advised that it is likely that Access Canberra will issue required permits very shortly. If you or your team would like to meet with the Access Canberra team to discuss any residual concerns, please let me know and I will facilitate.

Please do be in touch if there is anything additional we can assist with.

Kind regards,

*Emily Harper*

Executive Director, Health Improvement Branch  
 Population Health Protection and Prevention | ACT Health  
 PH 6205 2245 | MOB [REDACTED] | FAX 6205 1884  
 2-6 Bowes Street, PHILLIP ACT 2606 | GPO Box 825, Canberra City ACT 2601  
 E [emily.harper@act.gov.au](mailto:emily.harper@act.gov.au)



**From:** Harper, Emily (Health)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 19 April 2018 3:15 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@cattleyard.com>

**Cc:** Kelly, Paul (Health) <Paul.Kelly@act.gov.au>; McNeill, Laura (Health) <Laura.McNeill@act.gov.au>; Attridge, Vanessa <VanessaS.Attridge@act.gov.au>

**Subject:** RE: Letter from Paul Kelly regarding the STA-SAFE pill testing trial proposal [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi [REDACTED]

Many thanks for your email. As indicated in my message on your voicemail, I will be in touch first thing tomorrow morning to ensure we are providing you with the assurances you require.

Look forward to talking soon,

Emily

---

**From:** [REDACTED] [REDACTED]@cattleyard.com]

**Sent:** Thursday 19 April 2018 13:39

**To:** Harper, Emily (Health)

**Cc:** Kelly, Paul (Health); McNeill, Laura (Health); Attridge, Vanessa

**Subject:** Re: Letter from Paul Kelly regarding the STA-SAFE pill testing trial proposal [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi Paul, Emily, Vanessa and Laura,

Could you please send through copies of the correspondence with the below listed organisations that confirms they all provide support for pill testing at GTM Canberra as referenced in your letter titled 'STA-SAFE pill testing trial proposal at Groovin the Moo Canberra 2018' and dated 6 April 2018?

- University Of Canberra
- ACT Ambulance
- Access Canberra (on behalf of licensing)
- Red Frogs

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]@cattleyard.com

cattleyard.com | gtm.net.au | theplot.co  
Suite 4/ 50 Reservoir St  
Surry Hills, NSW 2010

On 13 Apr 2018, at 3:57 pm, Harper, Emily (Health) <Emily.Harper@act.gov.au> wrote:

Thanks [REDACTED]

Have a great weekend.

Kind regards,

*Emily Harper*

Executive Director, Health Improvement Branch  
 Population Health Protection and Prevention | ACT Health  
 PH 6205 2245 | MOB [REDACTED] | FAX 6205 1884  
 2-6 Bowes Street, PHILLIP ACT 2606 | GPO Box 825, Canberra City ACT 2601  
 E [emily.harper@act.gov.au](mailto:emily.harper@act.gov.au)  
 <image001.jpg>

From: [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]@cattleyard.com]  
 Sent: Friday, 13 April 2018 3:56 PM  
 To: Harper, Emily (Health) <Emily.Harper@act.gov.au>  
 Cc: Kelly, Paul (Health) <Paul.Kelly@act.gov.au>; McNeill, Laura (Health) <Laura.McNeill@act.gov.au>; Attridge, Vanessa <VanessaS.Attridge@act.gov.au>  
 Subject: Re: Letter from Paul Kelly regarding the STA-SAFE pill testing trial proposal [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi Emily, Paul, Laura and Vanessa,

With regards to the indemnity template, paragraphs 2,3 & 4 on page two of the template will need to be replaced with the following.

*"HRA shall indemnify the promoter and landholder against:*

- (1) losses or claims for death, illness or injury to their employees, directors or volunteers and /or other partner organisation's employees, directors or volunteers;*
- (2) losses or claims for loss of or damage to their property or the property of their employees, directors or volunteers and /or other partner organisation's employees, directors or volunteers;*

*arising out of or in connection with this contract or the work associated with it, and against all claims demands, proceedings and cases of action arising therefrom, unless they arise out of the promoter's or landholder's negligence, breach of statutory duty or wilful misconduct.*

*HRA shall indemnify the promoter, landholder, their employees, directors or volunteers and /or other partner organisation's employees, directors or volunteers against losses or claims in respect of personal injury and/or death to any Third Party arising out of the performance of this contract or the work associated with it.*

*HRA shall indemnify the promoter, landholder, their employees, directors or volunteers and /or other partner organisation's employees, directors or volunteers against losses or claims in respect of damage to the real or personal property of any Third Party arising out of the performance of this contract or the work associated with it."*

regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

<image002.png>

██████████@cattleyard.com  
██████████

[cattleyard.com](http://cattleyard.com) | [gtm.net.au](http://gtm.net.au) | [theplot.co](http://theplot.co)  
Suite 4/ 50 Reservoir St  
Surry Hills, NSW 2010

On 13 Apr 2018, at 11:25 am, Harper, Emily (Health)  
<[Emily.Harper@act.gov.au](mailto:Emily.Harper@act.gov.au)> wrote:

Good Morning ██████████,

Many thanks for sending this through. We will be in touch soon, and look forward to receiving further feedback on the Letter of Indemnity when available.

Kind regards,

*Emily Harper*

Executive Director, Health Improvement Branch  
Population Health Protection and Prevention | ACT Health  
PH 6205 2245 | MOB ██████████ | FAX 6205 1884  
2-6 Bowes Street, PHILLIP ACT 2606 | GPO Box 825, Canberra City ACT 2601  
E [emily.harper@act.gov.au](mailto:emily.harper@act.gov.au)  
<image001.jpg>

**From:** ██████████ [mailto:██████████@cattleyard.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, 13 April 2018 10:32 AM  
**To:** Harper, Emily (Health) <[Emily.Harper@act.gov.au](mailto:Emily.Harper@act.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** Kelly, Paul (Health) <[Paul.Kelly@act.gov.au](mailto:Paul.Kelly@act.gov.au)>; McNeill, Laura (Health) <[Laura.McNeill@act.gov.au](mailto:Laura.McNeill@act.gov.au)>; Attridge, Vanessa <[VanessaS.Attridge@act.gov.au](mailto:VanessaS.Attridge@act.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Re: Letter from Paul Kelly regarding the STA-SAFE pill testing trial proposal [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi Emily, Paul, Laura and Vanessa,

The feedback from our Insurer is as follows:

- STA-SAFE CONSORTIUM have only supplied Association Liability and Voluntary Workers Accident insurance
- The Association Liability covers Professional Indemnity – we will need something in writing from their Insurer confirming that this policy covers the pill testing activities (certificate just states “social services” as the activity insured)
- We will also need to see a copy of the public liability insurance which shows that they are covered for pill testing activities, and that the policy is for 20 million dollars



Also noting there will be further feedback provided on the Letter of Indemnity, I will send this through once I have it.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

<image002.png>

[REDACTED]@cattleyard.com

[REDACTED]

[cattleyard.com](http://cattleyard.com) | [gfm.net.au](http://gfm.net.au) | [theplot.co](http://theplot.co)  
Suite 4/ 50 Reservoir St  
Surry Hills, NSW 2010

On 10 Apr 2018, at 1:28 pm, Harper, Emily (Health)  
<[Emily.Harper@act.gov.au](mailto:Emily.Harper@act.gov.au)> wrote:

Many thanks [REDACTED]

Look forward to receiving your feedback shortly. Please do be in touch if we can assist further in the interim.

Kind regards,

*Emily Harper*

Executive Director, Health Improvement Branch  
Population Health Protection and Prevention | ACT Health  
PH 6205 2245 | MOB [REDACTED] | FAX 6205 1884  
2-6 Bowes Street, PHILLIP ACT 2606 | GPO Box 825, Canberra City ACT 2601  
E [emily.harper@act.gov.au](mailto:emily.harper@act.gov.au)  
<image001.jpg>

From: [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]@cattleyard.com]  
Sent: Tuesday, 10 April 2018 1:27 PM  
To: Harper, Emily (Health) <[Emily.Harper@act.gov.au](mailto:Emily.Harper@act.gov.au)>  
Cc: Kelly, Paul (Health) <[Paul.Kelly@act.gov.au](mailto:Paul.Kelly@act.gov.au)>; McNeill, Laura (Health) <[Laura.McNeill@act.gov.au](mailto:Laura.McNeill@act.gov.au)>  
Subject: Re: Letter from Paul Kelly regarding the STA-SAFE pill testing trial proposal [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]  
Importance: High

Hi Emily,

Confirming I have received this now. Thank you for the re-send, the first email had gone straight into a folder.

As discussed on the phone this morning, we will combine feedback from our insurer and our feedback on the plans and send it all across to Vanessa from the Minister's office with you all on copy.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

<image002.png>

[REDACTED]@cattleyard.com

cattleyard.com | gtm.net.au | theplot.co  
Suite 4/ 50 Reservoir St  
Surry Hills, NSW 2010

On 10 Apr 2018, at 11:11 am, Harper, Emily (Health) <Emily.Harper@act.gov.au> wrote:

Good Morning [REDACTED]

Thanks for your time earlier this morning.

I am resending the letter sent by Dr Kelly last Friday as discussed.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you wish to discuss further.

Kind regards,

*Emily Harper*

Executive Director, Health Improvement Branch  
Population Health Protection and Prevention | ACT Health  
PH 6205 2245 | MOB [REDACTED] | FAX 6205 1884  
2-6 Bowes Street, PHILLIP ACT 2606 | GPO Box 825,  
Canberra City ACT 2601  
E [emily.harper@act.gov.au](mailto:emily.harper@act.gov.au)  
<image007.jpg>

**From:** McNeill, Laura (Health) On Behalf Of Kelly, Paul (Health)  
**Sent:** Friday, 6 April 2018 4:55 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@cattleyard.com>  
**Cc:** Kelly, Paul (Health) <Paul.Kelly@act.gov.au>;

Harper, Emily (Health) <Emily.Harper@act.gov.au>;  
 Attridge, Vanessa <VanessaS.Attridge@act.gov.au>;  
 McNeill, Laura (Health)  
 <Laura.McNeill@act.gov.au>

**Subject:** RE: Letter from Paul Kelly regarding the  
 STA-SAFE pill testing trial proposal  
 [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Dear Ms [REDACTED]

Please find attached additional information from Dr  
 Paul Kelly as requested.

Kind regards  
 Laura McNeill  
 Obo

**Dr Paul Kelly**  
 ACT Chief Health Officer & Deputy Director-  
 General |  
 Population Health Protection & Prevention | ACT  
 Health Directorate  
 PH 02 6205 2108 | E [paul.kelly@act.gov.au](mailto:paul.kelly@act.gov.au)  
 <image008.jpg> Paul Kelly - ACT CHO  
 (@PKelly\_ACTCHO) on Twitter  
[http://www.health.act.gov.au/healthy-  
 living/population-health](http://www.health.act.gov.au/healthy-living/population-health)

<image009.png><image005.jpg>

**From:** [REDACTED]  
 [mailto:[REDACTED]@cattleyard.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, 6 April 2018 11:43 AM  
**To:** McNeill, Laura (Health)  
 <Laura.McNeill@act.gov.au>  
**Cc:** Kelly, Paul (Health) <Paul.Kelly@act.gov.au>;  
 Harper, Emily (Health) <Emily.Harper@act.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Re: Letter from Paul Kelly regarding the  
 STA-SAFE pill testing trial proposal  
 [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]  
**Importance:** High

Hi Paul,

Thank you for sending this letter through and for  
 confirming in writing the position of ACT Policing.

Aside from this one requirement, could you please  
 confirm whether all the other requirements are  
 able to be met with the relevant approvals in place  
 and insurances available? If they are, could you  
 please send the paperwork through along with the  
 submission?

Kind regards,

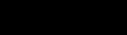


<image006.png>

@cattleyard.com

[cattleyard.com](http://cattleyard.com) | [gtm.net.au](http://gtm.net.au) | [theplot.co](http://theplot.co)  
Suite 4/ 50 Reservoir St  
Surry Hills, NSW 2010

On 5 Apr 2018, at 4:33 pm, McNeill,  
Laura (Health)  
<[Laura.McNeill@act.gov.au](mailto:Laura.McNeill@act.gov.au)> wrote:

Dear Ms 


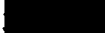
Please find a letter from Dr Paul  
Kelly regarding the STA-SAFE pill  
testing trial proposal.

Paul and Emily will contact you  
shortly.

Kind regards

**Laura McNeill**

Executive Officer | Executive  
Support Office | Population  
Health Protection & Prevention |  
ACT Health

Ph: 02) 6207 1781 | Mob:   
 | Fax: 02) 6205 1884

| [laura.mcneill@act.gov.au](mailto:laura.mcneill@act.gov.au)

<image001.jpg>

*Care Excellence Collaboration Int*

*egrity*

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the author.

<Letter from Paul Kelly  
regarding STA-SAFE pill testing  
trial proposal.pdf>

<Letter from Paul Kelly regarding requirements  
in relation to STA-SAFE pill testing trial.pdf>

**Cramond, Sarah (Health)**

---

**From:** Rushall, Anita (Health)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 26 April 2018 10:35 AM  
**To:** Arnold, Megan (Health)  
**Cc:** Douglas, Cynthia (Health)  
**Subject:** RE: Pill testing update [DLM=Sensitive: Cabinet]  
**Attachments:** FW: Web content - pill testing [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi Megan,

Please find attached an e-mail regarding a web content change.

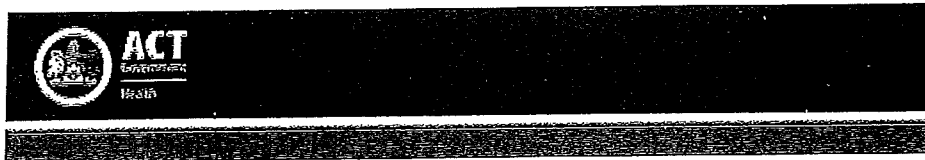
I am unable to change it, as we have the communications strategy in holding and all changes (including the new comms strategy) need the Minister's Office approval.

Kind regards,

Anita Rushall | Health Literacy Officer

*Care ▲ Excellence ▲ Collaboration ▲ Integrity*

Level 3, 2-6 Bowes Street Woden 2606  
 PO Box 11, Woden ACT 2606  
 Phone: 6205 9281 Email: [anita.rushall@act.gov.au](mailto:anita.rushall@act.gov.au)



@ACTHealth



[facebook.com/ACTHealthDirectorate](https://facebook.com/ACTHealthDirectorate)

**From:** Arnold, Megan (Health)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 26 April 2018 9:48 AM  
**To:** Rushall, Anita (Health) <[Anita.Rushall@act.gov.au](mailto:Anita.Rushall@act.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: Pill testing update [DLM=Sensitive: Cabinet]

Hi Anita,  
 Sadly not. It could still definitely go either way I'm really sorry.  
 You'll know as soon as I do, but I don't suppose that's helpful when there's only today and tomorrow left!  
 Sorry again  
 Megan

**From:** Rushall, Anita (Health)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 26 April 2018 8:59 AM  
**To:** Arnold, Megan (Health) <[Megan.Arnold@act.gov.au](mailto:Megan.Arnold@act.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** Douglas, Cynthia (Health) <[Cynthia.Douglas@act.gov.au](mailto:Cynthia.Douglas@act.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Pill testing update [DLM=Sensitive: Cabinet]

Hi Megan,

Just touching base regarding pill testing. Have you been given the 'go ahead'?

Kind regards,

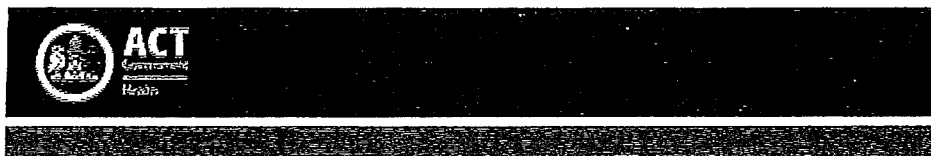
Anita Rushall | Health Literacy Officer

*Care ▲ Excellence ▲ Collaboration ▲ Integrity*

Level 3, 2-6 Bowes Street Woden 2606

PO Box 11, Woden ACT 2606

Phone: 6205 9281 Email: [anita.rushall@act.gov.au](mailto:anita.rushall@act.gov.au)



[@ACTHealth](https://twitter.com/ACTHealth)



[facebook.com/ACTHealthDirectorate](https://facebook.com/ACTHealthDirectorate)

**Cramond, Sarah (Health)**

---

**From:** McRae, Cree (Health) on behalf of HealthComms  
**Sent:** Thursday, 26 April 2018 10:02 AM  
**To:** Rushall, Anita (Health)  
**Cc:** Walsh, Jack (Health)  
**Subject:** FW: Web content - pill testing [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi Anita,

Please find a request about pill testing for your review and action.

Thanks

Cree

**From:** Walsh, Jack (Health)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 24 April 2018 3:31 PM  
**To:** HealthComms <HealthComms@act.gov.au>  
**Subject:** FW: Web content - pill testing [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi Guys,

Due to the sensitivities on this top could I please request we have these updates confirmed and approved by MO if required?

Thanks

Jack

**From:** Whybrow, Kirsty (Health)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 12 April 2018 9:19 AM  
**To:** ACTHealthProject@contentgroup.com.au <mailto:ACTHealthProject@contentgroup.com.au>  
**Cc:** McNeill, Laura (Health) <Laura.McNeill@act.gov.au <mailto:Laura.McNeill@act.gov.au> >; Arnold, Megan (Health) <Megan.Arnold@act.gov.au <mailto:Megan.Arnold@act.gov.au> >; Dennis, Kathy (Health) <Kathy.Dennis@act.gov.au <mailto:Kathy.Dennis@act.gov.au> >; Walsh, Jack (Health) <Jack.Walsh@act.gov.au <mailto:Jack.Walsh@act.gov.au> >  
**Subject:** Web content - pill testing [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]



Hi Web team

Re: <http://health.act.gov.au/pilltesting>

Pill testing is currently assigned to Health Protection Services. Could you please change this to Health Improvement Projects (HIP) within the Health Improvement Branch (still within Pop Health).

The web content spreadsheet suggests removing this page but please amend it instead. The information is still current bar the first paragraph which refers to the Spilt Milk Festival. Can you please amend the first para as follows:

On Friday 22 September 2017, ACT Minister for Health and Wellbeing, Meegan Fitzharris announced a pill testing service would be available during the Spilt Milk festival on 25 November 2017. The pill testing service is not proceeding at this time. The ACT Government is does, however, remain committed to preventing and reducing the harms associated with drug use, and will continue to explore opportunities to deliver pill testing at a future event.

Thanks

Kirsty

Kirsty Whybrow  
Senior Policy Officer

Health Improvement Projects

Health Improvement Branch

Population Health Protection and Prevention

ACT Health | Level 3, 6 Bowes Street | Woden ACT

GPO Box 825, Canberra City ACT 2601

Phone: 02 6205 0178 | Email: <<mailto:kirsty.whybrow@act.gov.au>> [kirsty.whybrow@act.gov.au](mailto:kirsty.whybrow@act.gov.au)

Part time (Mon, Tue, Thur, Fri)

**Cramond, Sarah (Health)**

---

**From:** Kelly, Paul (Health)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 26 April 2018 11:38 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Harper, Emily (Health); McNeill, Laura (Health)  
**Subject:** GTM Canberra [DLM=Sensitive]

Hi [REDACTED]

I have left 2 voicemail messages with you this morning in relation to Sunday's event in Canberra. I recognise this is a very busy time for you with the GTM events in multiple sites. However, there are a couple of urgent matters which we need to resolve as soon as possible.

Please give me a call to discuss, preferably in the next hour, noting [REDACTED] emailed deadline from 2000hrs 25 April.

Regards,


Paul

***Dr Paul Kelly***

ACT Chief Health Officer & Deputy Director-General |

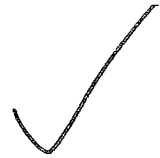
Population Health | ACT Health Directorate

PH 02 6205 2108 | E [paul.kelly@act.gov.au](mailto:paul.kelly@act.gov.au)

 Paul Kelly - ACT CHO (@PKelly\_ACTCHO) on Twitter

<http://www.health.act.gov.au/healthy-living/population-health>





## **Cramond, Sarah (Health)**

---

**From:** Webber, James (Health)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 26 April 2018 2:04 PM  
**To:** Pulli, Tracey (Health)  
**Subject:** Pill testing talking points [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED, DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Hi Tracey

Here are the talking points I've developed around pill testing for your review – I've also printed these out for you.

Talking points for use *if asked* about pill testing at Groovin the Moo 2018.

### **Is a pill testing trial proceeding at Groovin the Moo 2018 in the ACT?**

The ACT Government can confirm that an Australian first pill testing trial will be undertaken at the 'Groovin the Moo '018' Festival in Canberra.

The very clear message from the ACT Government is 'don't do drugs'.

However, festival goers will be able to have their pills tested at a facility adjacent to first aid services and the ambulance service. The testing facility will be enclosed to provide privacy for people seeking to have their pills tested, similar to a medical cubicle.

We support pill testing as a method for harm minimisation. This trial will assist us to better understand how pill testing may help reduce the harms of illicit drug use at festivals.

### **Why is the government supporting pill testing?**

The ACT Government provides a supportive policy environment for a controlled trial of pill testing, conducted by an independent consortium.

Available evidence indicates that providing consumers with information about the content of illegal drugs can reduce harms associated with taking unknown substances.

As pill testing has never been trialled before in Australia, the decision to implement it is not solely ours, as there are multiple stakeholders involved in undertaking the exercise.

In-depth reviews were conducted to inform our support for the trial, based on overseas studies and as part of a Whole of Government Working Group to investigate pill testing.

#### *If pressed on evidence*

Pill testing facilities have been effectively used internationally since the 1990's and are currently available in approximately 20 countries in Europe, the Americas and New Zealand.

A report from Austria found that half of those who had their drugs tested stated the results affected their consumption choices and two-thirds said they would not consume the drug and would warn friends in case of negative results.

### **How will it work?**

The controlled trial will be conducted by an independent consortium, STA-SAFE.

amphetamines and MDMA are inherently unsafe and pill testing cannot certify that a person will not suffer an adverse reaction as a result of taking them.

### **Does pill testing promote or condone drug use?**

Evidence suggests that people don't end up consuming more illicit substances as a result of a pill testing service. Pill testing services are a unique opportunity to effectively encourage people who use illicit drugs to modify their behaviours in ways that reduce risks of harm to their health.

**James Webber**

Senior Communication Officer

Strategic Communications and Media | ACT Health

P | 6207 5841 M | [REDACTED]

E | [james.webber@act.gov.au](mailto:james.webber@act.gov.au)

URL | [www.health.act.gov.au](http://www.health.act.gov.au)

**Cramond, Sarah (Health)**

---

**From:** Kelly, Paul (Health)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 26 April 2018 2:35 PM  
**To:** De'Ath, Michael (Health)  
**Cc:** Attridge, Vanessa; McNeill, Laura (Health); Dal Molin, Vanessa (Health); Harper, Emily (Health)  
**Subject:** RE: Update: Pill testing [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Hi Michael,

Another update.

Outstanding issues, including the attendance of certain proposed pill-testing staff, have been resolved today between the STA-SAFE consortium and Cattleyard (the promoters of the event) and so it looks like this is actually going to happen, this Sunday 29 April at the Groovin' the Moo festival on the UC campus.

I have informed the cross-government working group.

We (Emily and I) are currently working with Tracey on a media strategy, with the following parameters:

1. Pre-event media (at the request of Cattleyard) is proposed to be factual and bland
2. No pro-active media during the event, other than reactive media (for example in the event of an adverse issue perceived to be associated with pill testing – any adverse events related to drugs will no doubt be conflated with the pill testing trial). Members of the STA-SAFE consortium who attend the event will be required to sign a confidentiality agreement with Cattleyard (as are other staff at the event)
3. Post-event media to highlight the cooperation of multiple parties and facts, highlighting (hopefully) the success of the trial, lessons learnt, number of requests for testing and results of the testing.

I have agreed with Cattleyard that we will share the media strategy with them once we have formulated those.

Happy to discuss if required.


Paul

**Dr Paul Kelly**

ACT Chief Health Officer & Deputy Director-General |

Population Health | ACT Health Directorate

PH 02 6205 2108 | E [paul.kelly@act.gov.au](mailto:paul.kelly@act.gov.au)

 Paul Kelly - ACT CHO (@PKelly\_ACTCHO) on Twitter

<http://www.health.act.gov.au/healthy-living/population-health>



**From:** De'Ath, Michael (Health)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 25 April 2018 10:13 AM  
**To:** Harper, Emily (Health) <Emily.Harper@act.gov.au>  
**Cc:** Attridge, Vanessa <VanessaS.Attridge@act.gov.au>; Kelly, Paul (Health) <Paul.Kelly@act.gov.au>; McNeill, Laura

(Health) <Laura.McNeill@act.gov.au>; Dal Molin, Vanessa (Health) <Vanessa.DalMolin@act.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Re: Update: Pill testing [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Thank you for the update Emily.

Michael De'Ath

On 24 Apr 2018, at 5:15 pm, Harper, Emily (Health) <Emily.Harper@act.gov.au> wrote:

Hi Nessa,

Following on from our brief earlier discussion regarding pill testing, a brief summary update for your information.

I was contacted by [REDACTED] (Cattleyard) this afternoon, who reflected positively on the operational walkthrough at UC this morning. This on-site meeting was also attended by other operational stakeholders, including the AFP, who have also been in touch and advised that all parties appeared satisfied with the plans put in place.

In short, the liability/insurance issues and now the operational issues seem to have been largely resolved between both [REDACTED] STA-SAFE and Cattleyard. There are some continuing discussions occurring between STA-SAFE and Cattleyard in relation to the personnel involved. I will touch base with both [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] on Thursday and advise, but while not absolutely nailed down things are looking quite positive at this stage.

Please let me know if you would like to discuss further, and have a great ANZAC Day!

Kind regards,

*Emily Harper*

Executive Director, Health Improvement Branch  
Population Health Protection and Prevention | ACT Health  
PH 6205 2245 | MOB [REDACTED] | FAX 6205 1884  
2-6 Bowes Street, PHILLIP ACT 2606 | GPO Box 825, Canberra City ACT 2601  
E [emily.harper@act.gov.au](mailto:emily.harper@act.gov.au)  
<image001.jpg>

**Cramond, Sarah (Health)**

**From:** Harper, Emily (Health)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 26 April 2018 5:11 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Kelly, Paul (Health); McNeill, Laura (Health)  
**Subject:** RE: Pill testing - draft reactive media points [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

**Importance:** High

Hi [REDACTED]

Further to our email below, I have just been advised that the local media is already making very active commentary on pill testing (see screenshot below from local ABC journalist). I have also been advised that Minister Fitzharris' office is now being approached for comment by a number of local outlets.



**Elise Scott** @elisejourn • 11m

#BREAKING ABC understands pill testing WILL go ahead at Groovin the Moov in Canberra on Sunday. Aust-first trial approved @abcnewsCanberra



I can assure you that no information has been provided from the ACT Government at this stage. However this does highlight the need for an agreed media approach (including your preference as to how the conduct of the trial is confirmed, and to whom future media enquiries should be directed). To that end, it would be greatly appreciated if you could clear or provide comment on the below dot points as a matter of urgency.

I am cognisant that you are incredibly busy planning for the three upcoming events, and again greatly appreciate the time and effort you have put into this matter to date.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you wish to discuss further.

Kind regards,

*Emily Harper*

Executive Director, Health Improvement Branch  
 Population Health Protection and Prevention | ACT Health  
 PH 6205 2245 | MOB [REDACTED] | FAX 6205 1884  
 2-6 Bowes Street, PHILLIP ACT 2606 | GPO Box 825, Canberra City ACT 2601  
 E emily.harper@act.gov.au



**From:** Harper, Emily (Health)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 26 April 2018 3:25 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]@cattleyard.com>  
**Cc:** Kelly, Paul (Health) <Paul.Kelly@act.gov.au>; McNeill, Laura (Health) <Laura.McNeill@act.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Pill testing - draft reactive media points [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Hi [REDACTED]

As discussed earlier with Paul and myself, please find below our draft reactive talking points in relation to the trial. I want to again stress that there is no intention to seek proactive media engagement, and it is intended that these points will be used reactively (i.e. in response to media requests). Could you please review and advise at your earliest convenience?

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### Reactive Talking points:

- I am pleased to confirm that an Australian first pill testing trial will be undertaken by an independent consortium - STA-SAFE - at the 'Groovin the Moo 2018' Festival in Canberra this Sunday.
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E [emily.harper@act.gov.au](mailto:emily.harper@act.gov.au)





**Cramond, Sarah (Health)**

---

**From:** Pulli, Tracey (Health)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 26 April 2018 5:35 PM  
**To:** Harper, Emily (Health)  
**Subject:** RE: Pill testing - draft reactive media points [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Thanks Emily.

FYI – Triple J Hack radio is now also running that ABC Canberra has tweeted it is happening and that they are chasing comment from all parties to see how the decision has been made.

Cheers  
 Tracey

Tracey Pulli  
 Deputy Director of Media | ACT Health

P | 6205 3708 M | [REDACTED]  
 E | [tracey.pulli@act.gov.au](mailto:tracey.pulli@act.gov.au)  
 URL | [www.health.act.gov.au](http://www.health.act.gov.au)

**From:** Harper, Emily (Health)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 26 April 2018 5:11 PM  
**To:** Pulli, Tracey (Health) <[Tracey.Pulli@act.gov.au](mailto:Tracey.Pulli@act.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** FW: Pill testing - draft reactive media points [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]  
**Importance:** High

FYI as discussed.

*Emily Harper*

Executive Director, Health Improvement Branch  
 Population Health Protection and Prevention | ACT Health  
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 2-6 Bowes Street, PHILLIP ACT 2606 | GPO Box 825, Canberra City ACT 2601  
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**Cc:** Kelly, Paul (Health) <[Paul.Kelly@act.gov.au](mailto:Paul.Kelly@act.gov.au)>; McNeill, Laura (Health) <[Laura.McNeill@act.gov.au](mailto:Laura.McNeill@act.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: Pill testing - draft reactive media points [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]  
**Importance:** High

Hi [REDACTED]

Further to our email below, I have just been advised that the local media is already making very active commentary on pill testing (see screenshot below from local ABC Journalist). I have also been advised that Minister Fitzharris' office is now being approached for comment by a number of local outlets.



**Elise Scott** @elisejourno · 11m

#BREAKING ABC understands pill testing. WILL go ahead at Groovin the Moo in Canberra on Sunday. Aust-first trial approved @abcnewsCanberra



5



3



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Kind regards,

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E [emily.harper@act.gov.au](mailto:emily.harper@act.gov.au)



From: Harper, Emily (Health)

Sent: Thursday, 26 April 2018 3:25 PM

To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@cattleyard.com>

Cc: Kelly, Paul (Health) <[Paul.Kelly@act.gov.au](mailto:Paul.Kelly@act.gov.au)>; McNeill, Laura (Health) <[Laura.McNeill@act.gov.au](mailto:Laura.McNeill@act.gov.au)>

Subject: Pill testing - draft reactive media points [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

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---

### Reactive Talking points:

- I am pleased to confirm that an Australian first pill testing trial will be undertaken by an independent consortium - STA-SAFE - at the 'Groovin the Moo 2018' Festival in Canberra this Sunday.
- The ACT Government is providing a supportive policy environment for the trial to take place.
- It is dangerous to take illicit drugs and I want to be very clear that our message to festival goers is 'don't do drugs'. The possession, supply, and manufacture of illicit drugs remains illegal in the ACT and at the festival.

- Pill testing services are a unique opportunity to effectively encourage people who are considering using illicit drugs to modify their behaviours in ways that reduce risks of harm to their health.
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- In addition, this trial will assist us to better understand how pill testing may help reduce the harms of illicit drug use at festivals.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you would like to discuss further.

Kind regards,

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E [emily.harper@act.gov.au](mailto:emily.harper@act.gov.au)



**Cramond, Sarah (Health)**

---

**From:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@cattleyard.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 26 April 2018 5:46 PM  
**To:** Harper, Emily (Health)  
**Cc:** Kelly, Paul (Health); McNeill, Laura (Health)  
**Subject:** Re: Pill testing - draft reactive media points [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Hi Emily,

We would prefer:

ACT Health, Cattleyard Promotions and the STA-SAFE Consortium can confirm that the first Australian pill testing trial will take place at the Groovin the Moo Canberra, this Sunday 29 April. The trial does not condone illicit drug use, however will provide an opportunity to encourage people who are considering using illicit drugs to modify their behaviour in ways that reduce risks of harm to their health.

[REDACTED] Cattleyard  
 [REDACTED]@cattleyard.com

On 26 Apr 2018, at 16:40, Harper, Emily (Health) <Emily.Harper@act.gov.au> wrote:

Hi [REDACTED]

Further to our email below, I have just been advised that the local media is already making very active commentary on pill testing (see screenshot below from local ABC journalist). I have also been advised that Minister Fitzharris' office is now being approached for comment by a number of local outlets.

<image003.jpg>

I can assure you that no information has been provided from the ACT Government at this stage. However this does highlight the need for an agreed media approach (including your preference as to how the conduct of the trial is confirmed, and to whom future media enquiries should be directed). To that end, it would be greatly appreciated if you could clear or provide comment on the below dot points as a matter of urgency.

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Kind regards,

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**From:** Harper, Emily (Health)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 26 April 2018 3:25 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@cattleyard.com>  
**Cc:** Kelly, Paul (Health) <Paul.Kelly@act.gov.au>; McNeill, Laura (Health) <Laura.McNeill@act.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Pill testing - draft reactive media points [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Hi [REDACTED]

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---

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Please don't hesitate to contact me if you would like to discuss further.

Kind regards,

*Emily Harper*

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This email, and any attachments, may be confidential and also privileged. If you are not the intended recipient, please notify the sender and delete all copies of this transmission along with any attachments immediately. You should not copy or use it for any purpose, nor disclose its contents to any other person.  
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**Cramond, Sarah (Health)**

---

**From:** Pulli, Tracey (Health)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 26 April 2018 2:56 PM  
**To:** Harper, Emily (Health)  
**Cc:** McNeill, Laura (Health)  
**Subject:** Groovin the Moo ministerial media talking points [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]  
**Attachments:** Ministerial media talking points - Pill testing at Groovin the Moo - as at 260418.doc

Here they are – happy to make any changes if you need.

Doc attached is with Q&A which you may want to take out when sending to Cattleyard. Leave that decision with you.

Cheers  
Tracey

Tracey Pulli  
Deputy Director of Media | ACT Health

P | 6205 3708 M | [REDACTED]  
E | [tracey.pulli@act.gov.au](mailto:tracey.pulli@act.gov.au)  
URL | [www.health.act.gov.au](http://www.health.act.gov.au)

## Ministerial media talking points

**SUBJECT:** Pill testing trial at Groovin the Moo Canberra

**ISSUE:** Media interest on pill testing ahead at the music festival on

### Talking points:

- I am pleased to say that an Australian first pill testing trial will be undertaken at the 'Groovin the Moo 2018' Festival in Canberra over the weekend.
- Cattleyard have confirmed that they will allow the trial to take place at the event by independent consortium STA-SAFE.
- The ACT Government is providing a supportive policy environment for the controlled trial to take place.
- It is dangerous to take illicit drugs and I want to be very clear that our message to festival goers is 'don't do drugs'. The possession, supply, and manufacture of illicit drugs is also illegal in the ACT and at the festival.
- Allowing a trial is about ensuring that people who decide to do drugs at events such as this, are doing so in a safer and more informed way.
- Pill testing also provides a health intervention prior to a person taking a substance, which could be what changes their mind from taking the illicit substance and putting themselves at risk.
- In addition, this trial will assist us to better understand how pill testing may help reduce the harms of illicit drug use at festivals.

### Question and Answer:

#### **Why is the government supporting pill testing?**

The ACT Government is providing a supportive policy environment for a controlled trial of pill testing, conducted by an independent consortium.

Available evidence indicates that providing consumers with information about the content of illegal drugs can reduce harms associated with taking unknown substances.

As pill testing has never been trialled before in Australia, the decision to implement it is not solely ours, as there are multiple stakeholders involved in undertaking the exercise.

In-depth reviews were conducted to inform our support for the trial, based on overseas studies and as part of a Whole of Government Working Group to investigate pill testing.

#### *If pressed on evidence*

Pill testing facilities have been effectively used internationally since the 1990's and are currently available in approximately 20 countries in Europe, the Americas and New Zealand.



A report from Austria found that half of those who had their drugs tested stated the results affected their consumption choices and two-thirds said they would not consume the drug and would warn friends in case of negative results.

#### **How will it work?**

The controlled trial will be conducted by an independent consortium, STA-SAFE.

Pill testing is a harm reduction service that analyses the contents of drugs and helps you avoid taking unknown and potentially dangerous substances often found in illicit drugs.

Festival goers will be able to have their pills tested at a facility adjacent to first aid services and the ambulance service.

The testing facility will be enclosed to provide privacy for people seeking to have their pills tested, similar to a medical cubicle.

Service staff test a small sample of received pills, then interpret and provide the results with information about the risks of consuming the substances identified in the sample.

#### **Why should people test their pills?**

The composition of illicit drugs is highly variable and unpredictable. The makers of illicit drugs will frequently cut pills with other substances, or substitute other more dangerous drugs entirely. Drugs may also be produced and distributed in unfavourable environments.

Pill testing enables better risk management by consumers. It helps you make an informed decision on whether or not to take the drug if it is found to contain unexpected substances.

#### **How did the proposal come to the ACT Government**

In February 2018, the STA-SAFE consortium submitted a proposal to conduct a pill testing trial at the GTM music festival at the University of Canberra on 29 April 2018.

ACT Health reconvened the Cross Government Pill Testing Working Group to examine the STA-SAFE proposal.

#### **Has ACT law enforcement been involved?**

We have worked closely with our law enforcement agencies through our Cross Government Working Group,

Law enforcement has indicated it will not interfere with the conduct of a pill testing trial. However they would maintain a strong presence at any music festival as part of their usual law enforcement activities at such events.

It is important to be very clear that the possession, supply, and manufacture of illicit drugs remain illegal in the ACT and at the festival.

#### **What if someone overdoses on drugs?**

The ACT Government maintains a clear message: 'don't do drugs'.

The reality is, illicit drugs such as amphetamines and MDMA are inherently unsafe and pill testing cannot certify that a person will not suffer an adverse reaction as a result of taking them.

Offering pill testing is about reducing this harm. It is about ensuring that people who decide to do drugs at events such as this, are doing so in a safer and more informed way.

Pill testing also provides a health intervention prior to a person taking a substance, which could be what changes their mind from taking the illicit substance and putting themselves at risk.

**Does pill testing promote or condone drug use?**

It is important to be very clear that the possession, supply, and manufacture of illicit drugs remain illegal in the ACT and at the festival.

Our message to festival goers is 'don't do drugs'.

Evidence suggests that people don't end up consuming more illicit substances as a result of a pill testing service.

Pill testing services are a unique opportunity to effectively encourage people who use illicit drugs to modify their behaviours in ways that reduce risks of harm to their health.

**What happens next?**

ACT Health will work with STA-SAFE to evaluate the trial, following the festival.

We will draw on these results to inform our next steps and future drug policy.

**Cramond, Sarah (Health)**

---

**From:** Harper, Emily (Health)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 26 April 2018 6:00 PM  
**To:** Pulli, Tracey (Health)  
**Cc:** Kelly, Paul (Health)  
**Subject:** FW: Pill testing - draft reactive media points [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]  
**Attachments:** Ministerial media talking points - Pill testing at Groovin the Moo - as at 260418 EH edit.doc

As discussed.

Once clear with Office let me know.

*Emily Harper*

Executive Director, Health Improvement Branch  
 Population Health Protection and Prevention | ACT Health  
 PH 6205 2245 | MOB [REDACTED] | FAX 6205 1884  
 2-6 Bowes Street, PHILLIP ACT 2606 | GPO Box 825, Canberra City ACT 2601  
 E [emily.harper@act.gov.au](mailto:emily.harper@act.gov.au)



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**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Kelly, Paul (Health) <[Paul.Kelly@act.gov.au](mailto:Paul.Kelly@act.gov.au)>; McNeill, Laura (Health) <[Laura.McNeill@act.gov.au](mailto:Laura.McNeill@act.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: Pill testing - draft reactive media points [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Thanks [REDACTED]

I will ensure this statement is shared appropriately with our Minister's Office, Communications Team and STA-SAFE.

Please do call if you wish to discuss further.

Kind regards,

*Emily Harper*

Executive Director, Health Improvement Branch  
 Population Health Protection and Prevention | ACT Health  
 PH 6205 2245 | MOB [REDACTED] FAX 6205 1884  
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[REDACTED] - Cattleyard  
[REDACTED]

On 26 Apr 2018, at 16:40, Harper, Emily (Health) <[Emily.Harper@act.gov.au](mailto:Emily.Harper@act.gov.au)> wrote:

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**Subject:** Pill testing - draft reactive media points [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

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*Emily Harper*

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 <image001.jpg>

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**Cramond, Sarah (Health)**

---

**From:** Pulli, Tracey (Health)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 26 April 2018 6:09 PM  
**To:** Johnston, ClaireV  
**Cc:** De'Ath, Michael (Health); Kelly, Paul (Health); Harper, Emily (Health); Attridge, Vanessa; ACT Health DLO; Anderson, Judy; Andersen, Jackie (Health); Dal Molin, Vanessa (Health)  
**Subject:** Media re: pill testing at Groovin the Moo this Sunday [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]  
**Attachments:** Ministerial media talking points - Pill testing at Groovin the Moo - 260418.doc  
**Importance:** High

Hi Claire

Was calling to give you an update on pill testing media response and approach. Please see below the statement that Cattleyard has come back to us with:

"The ACT Government, Cattleyard Promotions and the STA-SAFE Consortium can confirm that the first Australian pill testing trial will take place at the Groovin the Moo Canberra, this Sunday 29 April.

The trial does not condone illicit drug use, however will provide an opportunity to encourage people who are considering using illicit drugs to modify their behaviour in ways that reduce risks of harm to their health."

Cattleyard are happy for ACT Government to lead with the response to media enquiries with the statement above. Cattleyard are then happy for further information about the trial and how it went to be provided next week, following the event.

Are you happy to coordinate media responses from the Minister's office, or would you like me to manage the enquiries coming through?

Please see attached further media talking points and Q&A for the Minister. Paul Kelly is also available to be a spokesperson from ACT Health if required.


Give me a call if you need anything further.

Cheers

Tracey

Tracey Pulli

Deputy Director of Media | ACT Health

P | 6205 3708 M | 

E | [tracey.pulli@act.gov.au](mailto:tracey.pulli@act.gov.au) <<mailto:tracey.pulli@act.gov.au>>

URL | [www.health.act.gov.au](http://www.health.act.gov.au) <<http://www.health.act.gov.au>>

## Ministerial media talking points

**SUBJECT:** Pill testing trial at Groovin the Moo Canberra

**ISSUE:** Media interest on pill testing ahead at the music festival on 29 April 2018.

### Reactive Talking points:

- I am pleased to confirm that an Australian first pill testing trial will be undertaken by an independent consortium - STA-SAFE - at the 'Groovin the Moo 2018' Festival in Canberra this Sunday.
- The ACT Government is providing a supportive policy environment for the trial to take place.
- It is dangerous to take illicit drugs and I want to be very clear that our message to festival goers is 'don't do drugs'. The possession, supply, and manufacture of illicit drugs remains illegal in the ACT and at the festival.
- Pill testing services are a unique opportunity to effectively encourage people who are considering using illicit drugs to modify their behaviours in ways that reduce risks of harm to their health.
- Pill testing also provides a health intervention prior to a person taking a substance, which could be what changes their mind from taking the illicit substance and putting themselves at risk.
- In addition, this trial will assist us to better understand how pill testing may help reduce the harms of illicit drug use at festivals.
- Further information about the trial and how it went will be provided after the conclusion of the event.

### Question and Answer:

#### **Why is the government supporting pill testing?**

The ACT Government is providing a supportive policy environment for a controlled trial of pill testing, conducted by an independent consortium.

Available evidence indicates that providing consumers with information about the content of illegal drugs can reduce harms associated with taking unknown substances.

In-depth reviews were conducted to inform our support for the trial, based on overseas studies and as part of a Whole of Government Working Group to investigate pill testing.

#### *If pressed on evidence*

Pill testing facilities have been effectively used internationally since the 1990's and are currently available in approximately 20 countries in Europe, the Americas and New Zealand.

A report from Austria found that half of those who had their drugs tested stated the results affected their consumption choices and two-thirds said they would not consume the drug and would warn friends in case of negative results.



**How will it work?**

The trial will be conducted by an independent consortium, STA-SAFE.

Pill testing is a harm reduction service that analyses the contents of drugs and helps you avoid taking unknown and potentially dangerous substances often found in illicit drugs.

Festival goers will be able to have their pills tested at a facility adjacent to first aid services and the ambulance service.

Service staff test a small sample of received pills, then interpret and provide the results with information about the risks of consuming the substances identified in the sample.

**Why should people test their pills?**

The composition of illicit drugs is highly variable and unpredictable. The makers of illicit drugs will frequently cut pills with other substances, or substitute other more dangerous drugs. Drugs may also be produced and distributed in unfavourable environments.

Pill testing enables better risk management by consumers. It helps you make an informed decision on whether or not to take the drug if it is found to contain unexpected substances.

**How did the proposal come to the ACT Government?**

In February 2018, the STA-SAFE consortium submitted a proposal to conduct a pill testing trial at the GTM music festival at the University of Canberra on 29 April 2018.

ACT Health reconvened the Cross Government Pill Testing Working Group to examine the STA-SAFE proposal.

**Has ACT law enforcement been involved?**

We have worked closely with our law enforcement agencies through our Cross Government Working Group.

Law enforcement has indicated it will not interfere with the conduct of a pill testing trial. However they will maintain a strong presence at any music festival as part of their usual law enforcement activities at such events.

It is important to be very clear that the possession, supply, and manufacture of illicit drugs remain illegal in the ACT and at the festival.

**What if someone overdoses on drugs?**

The ACT Government maintains a clear message: 'don't do drugs'.

The reality is, illicit drugs are inherently unsafe and pill testing cannot certify that a person will not suffer an adverse reaction as a result of taking them.

Offering pill testing is about reducing this harm. It is about ensuring that people who are considering using drugs at events such as this, are better informed about the risks of doing so.

Pill testing also provides a health intervention prior to a person taking a substance, which could be what changes their mind from taking the illicit substance and putting themselves at risk.

**Does pill testing make taking illicit drug use safe?**

No, consumption of illicit drugs carries an inherent risk of harm. Pill testing services operate on a harm reduction principle. Pill testing services provide information on the contents of the drugs tested, which might include unexpected contaminants or substances, the risks involved, and how to reduce them. Even with laboratory equipment testing, service staff never advise users that the drug they are taking is 'safe.'

Also, chemical analysis is not able to determine with certainty whether a person will have a toxic reaction to taking a pill, although certain contaminants are highly toxic and likely to cause harm if ingested. Illicit drugs are inherently unsafe and pill testing cannot certify that a person will not suffer an adverse reaction as a result of taking them.

**Does pill testing promote or condone drug use?**

It is important to be very clear that the possession, supply, and manufacture of illicit drugs remain illegal in the ACT and at the festival.

Our message to festival goers is 'don't do drugs'.

Evidence suggests that people don't end up consuming more illicit substances as a result of a pill testing service.

Pill testing services are a unique opportunity to effectively encourage people who use illicit drugs to modify their behaviours in ways that reduce risks of harm to their health.

**What happens next?**

ACT Health will work with STA-SAFE to evaluate the trial, following the festival.

We will draw on these results to inform our next steps and future drug policy.

**Cramond, Sarah (Health)**

---

**From:** Pulli, Tracey (Health)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 26 April 2018 6:22 PM  
**To:** Kelly, Paul (Health)  
**Cc:** De'Ath, Michael (Health); Harper, Emily (Health); Dal Molin, Vanessa (Health)  
**Subject:** RE: Media re: pill testing at Groovin the Moo this Sunday [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Many thanks Paul.

I was just speaking with Claire and she has also confirmed that she will respond to media from the office at this point.

I will be on hand overnight/morning if the office needs anything further and will be in contact with you if you are needed for media engagement.

Cheers  
Tracey

Tracey Pulli  
Deputy Director of Media | ACT Health

P | 6205 3708 M | [REDACTED]  
E | [tracey.pulli@act.gov.au](mailto:tracey.pulli@act.gov.au)  
URL | [www.health.act.gov.au](http://www.health.act.gov.au)

**From:** Kelly, Paul (Health)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 26 April 2018 6:17 PM  
**To:** Pulli, Tracey (Health) <[Tracey.Pulli@act.gov.au](mailto:Tracey.Pulli@act.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** Johnston, ClaireV <[ClaireV.Johnston@act.gov.au](mailto:ClaireV.Johnston@act.gov.au)>; De'Ath, Michael (Health) <[Michael.De'Ath@act.gov.au](mailto:Michael.De'Ath@act.gov.au)>; Harper, Emily (Health) <[Emily.Harper@act.gov.au](mailto:Emily.Harper@act.gov.au)>; Attridge, Vanessa <[VanessaS.Attridge@act.gov.au](mailto:VanessaS.Attridge@act.gov.au)>; ACT Health DLO <[ACTHealthDLO@act.gov.au](mailto:ACTHealthDLO@act.gov.au)>; Anderson, Judy <[Judy.Anderson@act.gov.au](mailto:Judy.Anderson@act.gov.au)>; Andersen, Jackie (Health) <[Jackie.Andersen@act.gov.au](mailto:Jackie.Andersen@act.gov.au)>; Dal Molin, Vanessa (Health) <[Vanessa.DalMolin@act.gov.au](mailto:Vanessa.DalMolin@act.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Re: Media re: pill testing at Groovin the Moo this Sunday [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Thanks Tracey

I just discussed with Nessa who will get in touch with University of Canberra as well in relation to media management.

She noted that it is Chief Minister's talkback tomorrow morning but at this stage nothing further required.

I would further note that we have informed other members of the cross government working group on the latest developments and there is agreement that Minister for Health and Wellbeing has the lead on media engagement.

Thanks all for assistance on this matter.

Regards

Paul Kelly

On Apr 26, 2018, at 6:08 PM, Pulli, Tracey (Health) <[Tracey.Pulli@act.gov.au](mailto:Tracey.Pulli@act.gov.au)> wrote:

Hi Claire

Was calling to give you an update on pill testing media response and approach. Please see below the statement that Cattleyard has come back to us with:

“The ACT Government, Cattleyard Promotions and the STA-SAFE Consortium can confirm that the first Australian pill testing trial will take place at the Groovin the Moo Canberra, this Sunday 29 April.

The trial does not condone illicit drug use, however will provide an opportunity to encourage people who are considering using illicit drugs to modify their behaviour in ways that reduce risks of harm to their health.”

Cattleyard are happy for ACT Government to lead with the response to media enquiries with the statement above. Cattleyard are then happy for further information about the trial and how it went to be provided next week, following the event.

Are you happy to coordinate media responses from the Minister’s office, or would you like me to manage the enquiries coming through?

Please see attached further media talking points and Q&A for the Minister. Paul Kelly is also available to be a spokesperson from ACT Health if required.

Give me a call if you need anything further.

Cheers  
Tracey

Tracey Pulli  
Deputy Director of Media | ACT Health

P | 6205 3708 M | [REDACTED]  
E | [tracey.pulli@act.gov.au](mailto:tracey.pulli@act.gov.au)  
URL | [www.health.act.gov.au](http://www.health.act.gov.au)

<Ministerial media talking points - Pill testing at Groovin the Moo - 260418.doc>

**Cramond, Sarah (Health)**

---

**From:** Kelly, Paul (Health)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 26 April 2018 6:37 PM  
**To:** Pulli, Tracey (Health)  
**Subject:** Re: Media re: pill testing at Groovin the Moo this Sunday [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Great.

I'm happy to be secondary spokesperson if/when required.

Paul

On Apr 26, 2018, at 6:22 PM, Pulli, Tracey (Health) <Tracey.Pulli@act.gov.au> wrote:

Many thanks Paul.

I was just speaking with Claire and she has also confirmed that she will respond to media from the office at this point.

I will be on hand overnight/morning if the office needs anything further and will be in contact with you if you are needed for media engagement.

Cheers

Tracey

Tracey Pulli

Deputy Director of Media | ACT Health

P | 6205 3708 M | [REDACTED]

E | [tracey.pulli@act.gov.au](mailto:tracey.pulli@act.gov.au) <<mailto:tracey.pulli@act.gov.au>>

URL | [www.health.act.gov.au](http://www.health.act.gov.au) <<http://www.health.act.gov.au>>

From: Kelly, Paul (Health)  
Sent: Thursday, 26 April 2018 6:17 PM  
To: Pulli, Tracey (Health) <Tracey.Pulli@act.gov.au>

Cc: Johnston, ClaireV <ClaireV.Johnston@act.gov.au>; De'Ath, Michael (Health) <Michael.De'Ath@act.gov.au>; Harper, Emily (Health) <Emily.Harper@act.gov.au>; Attridge, Vanessa <VanessaS.Attridge@act.gov.au>; ACT Health DLO <ACTHealthDLO@act.gov.au>; Anderson, Judy <Judy.Anderson@act.gov.au>; Andersen, Jackie (Health) <Jackie.Andersen@act.gov.au>; Dal Molin, Vanessa (Health) <Vanessa.DalMolin@act.gov.au>

Subject: Re: Media re: pill testing at Groovin the Moo this Sunday [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Thanks Tracey

I just discussed with Nessa who will get in touch with University of Canberra as well in relation to media management.

She noted that it is Chief Minister's talkback tomorrow morning but at this stage nothing further required.

I would further note that we have informed other members of the cross government working group on the latest developments and there is agreement that Minister for Health and Wellbeing has the lead on media engagement.

Thanks all for assistance on this matter.

Regards

Paul Kelly

On Apr 26, 2018, at 6:08 PM, Pulli, Tracey (Health) <Tracey.Pulli@act.gov.au> wrote:

Hi Claire

Was calling to give you an update on pill testing media response and approach. Please see below the statement that Cattleyard has come back to us with:

"The ACT Government, Cattleyard Promotions and the STA-SAFE Consortium can confirm that the first Australian pill testing trial will take place at the Groovin the Moo Canberra, this Sunday 29 April.

The trial does not condone illicit drug use, however will provide an opportunity to encourage people who are considering using illicit drugs to modify their behaviour in ways that reduce risks of harm to their health.”

Cattleyard are happy for ACT Government to lead with the response to media enquiries with the statement above. Cattleyard are then happy for further information about the trial and how it went to be provided next week, following the event.

Are you happy to coordinate media responses from the Minister's office, or would you like me to manage the enquiries coming through?

Please see attached further media talking points and Q&A for the Minister. Paul Kelly is also available to be a spokesperson from ACT Health if required.

Give me a call if you need anything further.

Cheers

Tracey

Tracey Pulli

Deputy Director of Media | ACT Health

P | 6205 3708 M | [REDACTED]

E | [tracey.pulli@act.gov.au](mailto:tracey.pulli@act.gov.au) <<mailto:tracey.pulli@act.gov.au>>

URL | [www.health.act.gov.au](http://www.health.act.gov.au) <<http://www.health.act.gov.au>>

<Ministerial media talking points - Pill testing at Groovin the Moo - 260418.doc>

**Cramond, Sarah (Health)**

---

**From:** Pulli, Tracey (Health)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 26 April 2018 6:38 PM.  
**To:** Kelly, Paul (Health); Harper, Emily (Health)  
**Cc:** McNeill, Laura (Health)  
**Subject:** RE: Pill testing - draft reactive media points [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Thanks Paul.

ABC article now up:

- **ABC news Canberra – Pill-testing trial approved for Groovin the Moo festival in Canberra**  
 Pill testing will be trialled in Australia for the first time after the green light was given for this weekend's Groovin the Moo festival in Canberra. Festival promoter Cattleyard gave the pill-testing trial the final tick of approval after weeks of stalemate with the ACT Government, police and health officials.

Cheers  
 Tracey

Tracey Pulli  
 Deputy Director of Media | ACT Health

P | 6205 3708 M | [REDACTED]  
 E | [tracey.pulli@act.gov.au](mailto:tracey.pulli@act.gov.au)  
 URL | [www.health.act.gov.au](http://www.health.act.gov.au)

**From:** Kelly, Paul (Health)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 26 April 2018 6:36 PM  
**To:** Harper, Emily (Health) <Emily.Harper@act.gov.au>  
**Cc:** McNeill, Laura (Health) <Laura.McNeill@act.gov.au>; Pulli, Tracey (Health) <Tracey.Pulli@act.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Re: Pill testing - draft reactive media points [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

I've also just now spoken with [REDACTED] of STASAFE who has agreed with the approach.

Paul

On Apr 26, 2018, at 6:28 PM, Harper, Emily (Health) <[Emily.Harper@act.gov.au](mailto:Emily.Harper@act.gov.au)> wrote:

Hi [REDACTED]

As discussed with Tracey and myself, confirming media enquiries can be directed to Minister Fitzharris' office (on behalf of ACT Health/ ACT Government).

Please let me know if you require anything additional at this stage, and thanks again for your assistance in crafting this statement.

Kind regards,

*Emily Harper*

Executive Director, Health Improvement Branch  
 Population Health Protection and Prevention | ACT Health  
 PH 6205 2245 | MOB [REDACTED] | FAX 6205 1884  
 2-6 Bowes Street, PHILLIP ACT 2606 | GPO Box 825, Canberra City ACT 2601



E [emily.harper@act.gov.au](mailto:emily.harper@act.gov.au)  
<image001.jpg>

**From:** Harper, Emily (Health)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 26 April 2018 5:53 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@cattleyard.com>  
**Cc:** Kelly, Paul (Health) <[Paul.Kelly@act.gov.au](mailto:Paul.Kelly@act.gov.au)>; McNeill, Laura (Health) <[Laura.McNeill@act.gov.au](mailto:Laura.McNeill@act.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: Pill testing - draft reactive media points [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Thanks [REDACTED]

I will ensure this statement is shared appropriately with our Minister's Office, Communications Team and STA-SAFE.

Please do call if you wish to discuss further.

Kind regards,

*Emily Harper*

Executive Director, Health Improvement Branch  
Population Health Protection and Prevention | ACT Health  
PH 6205 2245 | MOB [REDACTED] | FAX 6205 1884  
2-6 Bowes Street, PHILLIP ACT 2606 | GPO Box 825, Canberra City ACT 2601  
E [emily.harper@act.gov.au](mailto:emily.harper@act.gov.au)  
<image001.jpg>

**From:** [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]@cattleyard.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 26 April 2018 5:46 PM  
**To:** Harper, Emily (Health) <[Emily.Harper@act.gov.au](mailto:Emily.Harper@act.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** Kelly, Paul (Health) <[Paul.Kelly@act.gov.au](mailto:Paul.Kelly@act.gov.au)>; McNeill, Laura (Health) <[Laura.McNeill@act.gov.au](mailto:Laura.McNeill@act.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Re: Pill testing - draft reactive media points [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Hi Emily,

We would prefer:

The ACT Government, Cattleyard Promotions and the STA-SAFE Consortium can confirm that the first Australian pill testing trial will take place at the Groovin the Moo Canberra, this Sunday 29 April. The trial does not condone illicit drug use, however will provide an opportunity to encourage people who are considering using illicit drugs to modify their behaviour in ways that reduce risks of harm to their health.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] - Cattleyard  
[REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@cattleyard.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@cattleyard.com)>

On 26 Apr 2018, at 16:40, Harper, Emily (Health) <[Emily.Harper@act.gov.au](mailto:Emily.Harper@act.gov.au)> wrote:

Hi [REDACTED]

Further to our email below, I have just been advised that the local media is already making very active commentary on pill testing (see screenshot below from local ABC

journalist). I have also been advised that Minister Fitzharris' office is now being approached for comment by a number of local outlets.

<image003.jpg>

I can assure you that no information has been provided from the ACT Government at this stage. However this does highlight the need for an agreed media approach (including your preference as to how the conduct of the trial is confirmed, and to whom future media enquiries should be directed). To that end, it would be greatly appreciated if you could clear or provide comment on the below dot points as a matter of urgency.

I am cognisant that you are incredibly busy planning for the three upcoming events, and again greatly appreciate the time and effort you have put into this matter to date.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you wish to discuss further.

Kind regards,

*Emily Harper*

Executive Director, Health Improvement Branch  
Population Health Protection and Prevention | ACT Health  
PH 6205 2245 | MOB [REDACTED] | FAX 6205 1884  
2-6 Bowes Street, PHILLIP ACT 2606 | GPO Box 825, Canberra City ACT 2601  
E [emily.harper@act.gov.au](mailto:emily.harper@act.gov.au)  
<image001.jpg>

**From:** Harper, Emily (Health)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 26 April 2018 3:25 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@cattleyard.com>  
**Cc:** Kelly, Paul (Health) <[Paul.Kelly@act.gov.au](mailto:Paul.Kelly@act.gov.au)>; McNeill, Laura (Health) <[Laura.McNeill@act.gov.au](mailto:Laura.McNeill@act.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Pill testing - draft-reactive media points [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Hi [REDACTED]

As discussed earlier with Paul and myself, please find below our draft reactive talking points in relation to the trial. I want to again stress that there is no intention to seek proactive media engagement, and it is intended that these points will be used reactively (i.e. in response to media requests). Could you please review and advise at your earliest convenience?

---

### Reactive Talking points:

- ? I am pleased to confirm that an Australian first pill testing trial will be undertaken by an independent consortium - STA-SAFE - at the 'Groovin the Moo 2018' Festival in Canberra this Sunday.
- ? The ACT Government is providing a supportive policy environment for the trial to take place.
- ? It is dangerous to take illicit drugs and I want to be very clear that our message to festival goers is 'don't do drugs'. The possession, supply, and

manufacture of illicit drugs remains illegal in the ACT and at the festival.

- ? Pill testing services are a unique opportunity to effectively encourage people who are considering using illicit drugs to modify their behaviours in ways that reduce risks of harm to their health.
- ? Pill testing also provides a health intervention prior to a person taking a substance, which could be what changes their mind from taking the illicit substance and putting themselves at risk.
- ? In addition, this trial will assist us to better understand how pill testing may help reduce the harms of illicit drug use at festivals.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you would like to discuss further.

Kind regards,

*Emily Harper*

Executive Director, Health Improvement Branch  
Population Health Protection and Prevention | ACT Health  
PH 6205 2245 | MOB [REDACTED] | FAX 6205 1884  
2-6 Bowes Street, PHILLIP ACT 2606 | GPO Box 825, Canberra City ACT 2601  
E [emily.harper@act.gov.au](mailto:emily.harper@act.gov.au)  
<image001.jpg>

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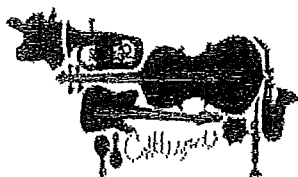
**Cramond, Sarah (Health)**

---

**From:** [REDACTED]@cattleyard.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, 27 April 2018 2:41 AM  
**To:** Attridge, Vanessa  
**Cc:** Kelly, Paul (Health); Johnston, ClaireV  
**Subject:** Re: PT talking points

Thanks Vanessa.

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]@cattleyard.com

cattleyard.com | gtm.net.au | theplot.co  
 Suite 4/ 50 Reservoir St  
 Surry Hills, NSW 2010

On 26 Apr 2018, at 8:21 pm, Attridge, Vanessa <VanessaS.Attridge@act.gov.au> wrote:

Dear [REDACTED]

I hope this email finds you well.

Thank you for agreeing to the talking points for media. I am also writing to let you know that the Chief Minister is doing his regular Chief Minister Talkback tomorrow morning on the local radio, and we expect he is likely to receive questions regarding pill testing. Confirming we have the following lines ready to go if the Chief Minister receives questions about this the GtM trial:

The ACT Government, Cattleyard Promotions and the STA-SAFE Consortium can confirm that the first Australian pill testing trial will take place at the Groovin the Moo Canberra, this Sunday 29 April. The trial does not condone illicit drug use, however will provide an opportunity to encourage people who are considering using illicit drugs to modify their behaviour in ways that reduce risks of harm to their health

For other media enquiries, Minister Fitzharris as Minister for Health and Wellbeing will be the spokesperson.

All the best for your events this week, I hope they all go very well.

Kind regards,  
Vanessa

Vanessa Attridge  
Chief of Staff  
Office of Meegan Fitzharris MLA

---

This email, and any attachments, may be confidential and also privileged. If you are not the intended recipient, please notify the sender and delete all copies of this transmission along with any attachments immediately. You should not copy or use it for any purpose, nor disclose its contents to any other person.

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**Cramond, Sarah (Health)**

---

**From:** Harper, Emily (Health)  
**Sent:** Friday, 27 April 2018 8:25 AM  
**To:** Health Media; Pulli, Tracey (Health)  
**Cc:** McNeill, Laura (Health)  
**Subject:** RE: 2CC Interview - Minister Fitzharris on Pill Testing [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Thanks Katarina

*Emily Harper*

Executive Director, Health Improvement Branch  
 Population Health Protection and Prevention | ACT Health  
 PH 6205 2245 | MOB [REDACTED] | FAX 6205 1884  
 2-6 Bowes Street, PHILLIP ACT 2606 | GPO Box 825, Canberra City ACT 2601  
 E emily.harper@act.gov.au



**From:** Milenkovic, Katarina (Health) On Behalf Of Health Media  
**Sent:** Friday, 27 April 2018 8:10 AM  
**To:** Harper, Emily (Health) <Emily.Harper@act.gov.au>; Pulli, Tracey (Health) <Tracey.Pulli@act.gov.au>  
**Cc:** McNeill, Laura (Health) <Laura.McNeill@act.gov.au>  
**Subject:** 2CC Interview - Minister Fitzharris on Pill Testing

Good morning,

Please find attached the audio recording of this morning's 2CC Radio interview with Minister Fitzharris on pill testing.

Kind regards,

**Katarina Milenkovic**  
 Media Officer | Strategic Communications and Media  
 Government and Communications | Level 3, 6 Bowes Street Phillip ACT 2606  
 Ph: (02) 6205 1785 | Email: [katarina.milenkovic@act.gov.au](mailto:katarina.milenkovic@act.gov.au)



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**Cramond, Sarah (Health)**

---

**From:** Harper, Emily (Health)  
**Sent:** Friday, 27 April 2018 8:25 AM  
**To:** Kelly, Paul (Health)  
**Subject:** FW: 2CC Interview - Minister Fitzharris on Pill Testing [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]  
**Attachments:** Fitzharris - Pill Testing Interview.wma; Fitzharris - Continuing Pill Testing Interview.wma

FYI

*Emily Harper*

Executive Director, Health Improvement Branch  
 Population Health Protection and Prevention | ACT Health  
 PH 6205 2245 | MOB [REDACTED] | FAX 6205 1884  
 2-6 Bowes Street, PHILLIP ACT 2606 | GPO Box 825, Canberra City ACT 2601  
 E emily.harper@act.gov.au



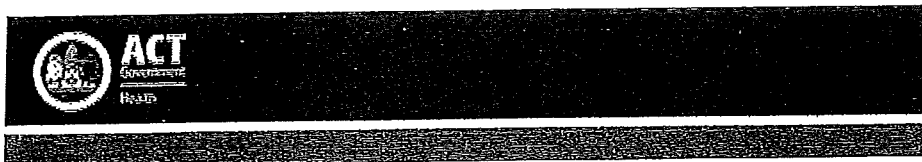
**From:** Milenkovic, Katarina (Health) On Behalf Of Health Media  
**Sent:** Friday, 27 April 2018 8:10 AM  
**To:** Harper, Emily (Health) <Emily.Harper@act.gov.au>; Pulli, Tracey (Health) <Tracey.Pulli@act.gov.au>  
**Cc:** McNeill, Laura (Health) <Laura.McNeill@act.gov.au>  
**Subject:** 2CC Interview - Minister Fitzharris on Pill Testing

Good morning,

Please find attached the audio recording of this morning's 2CC Radio interview with Minister Fitzharris on pill testing.

Kind regards,

**Katarina Milenkovic**  
 Media Officer | Strategic Communications and Media  
 Government and Communications | Level 3, 6 Bowes Street Phillip ACT 2606  
 Ph: (02) 6205 1785 | Email: [katarina.milenkovic@act.gov.au](mailto:katarina.milenkovic@act.gov.au)



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[facebook.com/ACTHealthDirectorate](https://www.facebook.com/ACTHealthDirectorate)

**Cramond, Sarah (Health)**

---

**From:** Harper, Emily (Health)  
**Sent:** Friday, 27 April 2018 10:39 AM  
**To:** Douglas, Cynthia (Health)  
**Cc:** Tobler, Elizabeth (Health); Rushall, Anita (Health); Arnold, Megan (Health); Nixon, Erica (Health); Kelly, Paul (Health); ACT Health, Director HIB Support; McNeill, Laura (Health); Owen, Kimberly (Health); Pulli, Tracey (Health)  
**Subject:** RE: FOR ACTION: Pill testing web content [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]  
**Attachments:** ATTACHMENT C- WEBSITE CONTENT FAQ\_aredit EH edit 27042018.doc

Hi Cynthia,

Please see attached cleared amendments to the web page. Thanks to you and team for working to pull this together. As to social etc, there is no intention at this stage for anything proactive at all. This is at the request of the promoter.

Please do let me know once the amendments have been made.

Kind regards,

*Emily Harper*

Executive Director, Health Improvement Branch  
 Population Health Protection and Prevention | ACT Health  
 PH 6205 2245 | MOB [REDACTED] | FAX 6205 1884  
 2-6 Bowes Street, PHILLIP ACT 2606 | GPO Box 825, Canberra City ACT 2601  
 E emily.harper@act.gov.au



**From:** Douglas, Cynthia (Health)  
**Sent:** Friday, 27 April 2018 10:27 AM  
**To:** Harper, Emily (Health) <Emily.Harper@act.gov.au>  
**Cc:** Tobler, Elizabeth (Health) <Elizabeth.Tobler@act.gov.au>; Rushall, Anita (Health) <Anita.Rushall@act.gov.au>  
**Subject:** FOR ACTION: Pill testing web content [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi Emily

My team have been liaising with Megan Arnold around communication support that may or may not be required for Pill Testing. When she spoke to my staff member this morning she said she didn't know what was happening. I understand that you don't want any proactive communication but we need to amend the existing web content slightly (it still talks about Spilt Milk). Revised text attached for your approval.

<http://www.health.act.gov.au/pilltesting>

I have a revised communication strategy and social media if we need it and you believe it is appropriate.

Kind Regards

Cynthia

Cynthia Douglas  
 Senior Manager



Communication and Stakeholder Engagement  
Government and Communication  
ACT Health  
(02) 6207 9149  
[Redacted]



Care ▲ Excellence ▲ Collaboration ▲ Integrity

## ATTACHMENT C- ACT HEALTH WEBSITE CONTENT (FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS)

On ~~xxx~~Thursday 27 April 2018 Friday 22 September 2017, ACT Minister for Health and Wellbeing, Meegan Fitzharris announced a pill testing service will be available during the Groovin the Moo Canberra music festival on 29 April 2018. ~~Spilt Milk festival on 25 November 2017.~~

### **What is pill testing?**

Pill testing is a harm reduction service (also known as drug checking) that analyses the contents of drugs and helps you avoid taking unknown and potentially dangerous substances often found in illicit drugs.

Service staff test a small sample of your pill, then interpret and provide the results with information about the risks of consuming the substances identified in the sample.

Pill testing facilities have been effectively used internationally since the 1990's and are currently available in approximately 20 countries in Europe, the Americas and New Zealand.

### **What is harm reduction?**

Harm reduction includes measures aimed at reducing the adverse health, social and economic consequences of the use of drugs, for the user, their families and the wider community. Harm reduction makes up one of the three pillars of the balanced harm minimisation approached outlined in the National Drug Strategy 2017-2026.

# GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNICATION



## **Why should I test my pill?**

The composition of illicit drugs is highly variable and unpredictable. The makers of illicit drugs will frequently cut pills with other substances, or substitute other more dangerous drugs entirely. Drugs may also be produced and distributed in unfavourable environments.

Pill testing enables better risk management by consumers. It helps you make an informed decision on whether or not to take the drug if it is found to contain unexpected substances.

## **How will my pills be tested?**

The pill testing service will be conducted by volunteer medical staff and analytical chemists using a mobile laboratory. You will be asked to undertake a pre-test self-assessment which will ask what you believe the substance is and to then provide a small scraping of the substance onto the test equipment.

After the pill has been tested, the staff will provide you with information regarding the results and discuss the risks of drug taking. You will be given an opportunity to discard the illicit substance in the amnesty bin.

## **Who will be doing the pill testing?**

Pill testing at the Groovin the Moo festival Spill-Milk-festival will be provided by the Safety and Testing and Advisory Service at Festivals and Events (STA-SAFE). STA-SAFE is a consortium of non-government organisations lead by Harm Reduction Australia (HRA). HRA is a national membership based advocacy non-government organisation that supports harm reduction strategies in relation to drug use. The pill testing will be provided using mobile laboratory equipment free of charge as a component of a number of harm reduction services.

# GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNICATION



## **Where do I go to have my pill tested?**

The STA-SAFE pill testing facility will be located in the medical precinct of the Groovin the Moo music Spill Milk festival, adjacent to first aid services and the ambulance service. The testing facility will be enclosed to provide privacy for people seeking to have their pills tested, similar to a medical cubicle.

## **What is an amnesty bin?**

Amnesty bins contain bleach, which completely destroy any drugs deposited in them to the extent that they could not be recovered or used. The substances could then be disposed of as standard medical waste.

## **Does pill testing make taking illicit drug uses safe?**

No. Pill testing services operate on a harm reduction principle. The service will provide you with information on the contents, the risks involved, and how to reduce them. Even with laboratory level testing, service staff never advise users that the drug they are taking is 'safe.'

Also, chemical analysis is also not able to determine with certainty whether a person will have a toxic reaction to taking a pill, although certain contaminants are highly toxic and likely to cause harm if ingested. Illicit drugs such as amphetamines and MDMA are inherently unsafe and pill testing cannot certify that a person will not suffer an adverse reaction as a result of taking them.

## **Are legislative changes needed to allow pill testing to happen in the ACT?**

STA-SAFE has not proposed any change to the legislative status of illicit drugs in the ACT. The possession, supply, and use of illicit drugs remains illegal in the ACT. However, pill testing is a method of harm minimisation and aims to keep people safe.

## **What evidence is available that pill testing actually reduces harm?**

Available evidence indicates that providing consumers with information about the content of illegal drugs they intend to ingest can reduce rates of overdose or toxicity from unknown substances.

# GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNICATION



ACT  
Government  
Health

There is also evidence that pill testing facilitates engagement of festival patrons in counselling. A report from Austria found that half of those who had their drugs tested stated the results affected their consumption choices and two-thirds said they would not consume the drug and would warn friends in case of negative results.

A recent published review of pill testing by an NGO at eight festivals in New Zealand analysed 330 samples. The testing service identified 39 different psychoactive substances. More than 75 per cent of patrons believed their substance was MDMA or LSD. Only 66 per cent of samples were actually MDMA or LSD, and 38 per cent of samples were not exactly what patrons believed them to be.

The NGO reported the impact on patron's behaviour being significant with patrons making more considered and safer decisions. 63 per cent of patrons indicated they did not intend to take the drug when they learnt it was not what was expected.

The available literature does not provide evidence that pill testing prevents deaths among festival patrons. Any such effect would be difficult to study due to the unpredictable nature of adverse events from illicit drug consumption.

## **Does pill testing promote or condone drug use?**

No- evidence suggests that people don't end up consuming more illicit substances as a result of a pill testing service. Pill testing services are a unique opportunity to effectively encourage people who use illicit drugs to modify their behaviours in ways that reduce risks of harm to their health.

## **Is there community support for pill testing?**

ACT Health together with Justice and Community Safety Directorate (JACS), ACT Ambulance Service (ACTAS) and ACT Policing formed a cross government working group. The working group has undertaken significant consultation that was overwhelmingly in favour of pill testing being allowed to take place in the ACT.

Consultation with the wider Canberra community in the form of a Canberra Omnibus Survey run by Winton Sustainable Research Strategies found nine in ten people (89.8%) say they support a harm reduction approach.

**Cramond, Sarah (Health)**

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 27 April 2018 9:54 AM  
**To:** Pulli, Tracey (Health); Jean, David (Health); Webber, James (Health)  
**Subject:** Pill Testing media

**Importance:** High

Hi Tracey, David & James

With the pill testing announcement, not surprisingly there is some media interest.

Dr [REDACTED] spoke to me yesterday about the sensitivity of the various stakeholders, and I understand that as the approval process evolved over the past few days one of the arrangements agreed by all parties was that ACTH would handle the media, with the Chief Health Officer the only person to comment.

[REDACTED] was expressly asked not to be available to the media. I expect he may have a story to tell next week, but for the time being he is not available.

He has received a couple of queries that claim they were directed by ACTH media.

I don't know what the Chief Health Officer has available by way of comment, statement, access etc, but can you please avoid directing any inquiries to [REDACTED]

Cheers & Thanks

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



Public Hospital Bruce  
 Cnr Belconnen Way & Haydon Drive Bruce ACT 2617  
 PO Box 254 Jamison Centre ACT 2614

E: [REDACTED]@calvary-act.com.au  
[www.calvary-act.com.au](http://www.calvary-act.com.au)

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Continuing the Mission of the Sisters of the Little Company of Mary

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**Cramond, Sarah (Health)**

---

**From:** Webber, James (Health) on behalf of Health Media  
**Sent:** Friday, 27 April 2018 10:42 AM  
**To:** McNeill, Laura (Health); Harper, Emily (Health); Health Media  
**Cc:** Pulli, Tracey (Health)  
**Subject:** FW: Science behind pill testing [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hello

Please see below a question from the Canberra Times on the science around pill testing.

We could answer this with our previously workshopped lines plus some additional info:

The controlled pill testing trial will be conducted by an independent consortium, STA-SAFE.

Festival goers will be able to have their pills tested at a facility adjacent to first aid services and the ambulance service. The testing facility will be enclosed to provide privacy for people seeking to have their pills tested, similar to a medical cubicle.

Service staff test a small sample of received pills, then interpret and provide the results with information about the risks of consuming the substances identified in the sample.

<Science info - answer: What tests will be used (is it reagent testing), how does the test work, and what substances are tested for?>

The composition of illicit drugs is highly variable and unpredictable. The makers of illicit drugs will frequently cut pills with other substances, or substitute other more dangerous drugs entirely. Drugs may also be produced and distributed in unfavourable environments.

Pill testing enables better risk management by consumers. It can help inform decisions on whether or not to take the drug if it is found to contain unexpected substances.

Are you please able to advise?

Kind regards,  
James

**From:** [redacted] [mailto:[redacted]@fairfaxmedia.com.au]  
**Sent:** Friday, 27 April 2018 10:25 AM  
**To:** Health Media <HealthMedia@act.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Science behind pill testing

G'day James

Cheers for the call mate - as mentioned, we are keen to do a bit of a sidebar on the science behind the testing.

- What tests will be used (is it reagent testing), how does the test work, and what substances are tested for?

If you've got some boilerplate stuff already worked up on that kind of stuff I'd be keen to have a peek at that, and maybe I can fire through any additional questions after?

Thanks

[Redacted]

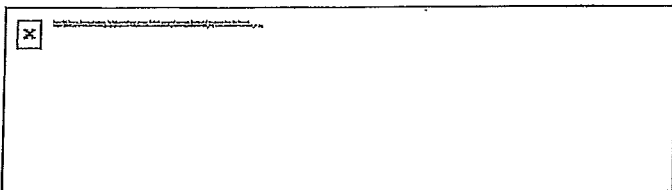
[Redacted]

Reporter - The Canberra Times  
Australian Community Media

[Redacted]

@Fairfaxmedia.com.au

9 Pirie Street, Fyshwick, Canberra, ACT 2609  
www.canberratimes.com.au



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**Cramond, Sarah (Health)**

---

**From:** Johnston, ClaireV  
**Sent:** Friday, 27 April 2018 10:56 AM  
**To:** Health Media  
**Cc:** Pulli, Tracey (Health)  
**Subject:** RE: Science behind pill testing [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

**Categories:** James

Thanks James. I'm happy for this to just be information provided by ACT Health if Cattleyard are ok with it.

**From:** Webber, James (Health) On Behalf Of Health Media  
**Sent:** Friday, 27 April 2018 10:48 AM  
**To:** Johnston, ClaireV <ClaireV.Johnston@act.gov.au>  
**Cc:** Pulli, Tracey (Health) <Tracey.Pulli@act.gov.au>  
**Subject:** FW: Science behind pill testing [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi Claire

We've received an enquiry from Canberra Times on more specific detail around the testing – please see below. We're workshopping a response with Population Health.

Do you have a preference on whether this comes from the Directorate or Minister? We can also check in with Cattleyard on the approach.

Kind regards,  
 James

**James Webber**  
 Senior Communication Officer  
 Strategic Communications and Media | ACT Health

P | 6207 5841 M | [REDACTED]  
 E | [James.webber@act.gov.au](mailto:James.webber@act.gov.au)  
 URL | [www.health.act.gov.au](http://www.health.act.gov.au)

**From:** Webber, James (Health) On Behalf Of Health Media  
**Sent:** Friday, 27 April 2018 10:42 AM  
**To:** McNeill, Laura (Health) <[Laura.McNeill@act.gov.au](mailto:Laura.McNeill@act.gov.au)>; Harper, Emily (Health) <[Emily.Harper@act.gov.au](mailto:Emily.Harper@act.gov.au)>; Health Media <[HealthMedia@act.gov.au](mailto:HealthMedia@act.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** Pulli, Tracey (Health) <[Tracey.Pulli@act.gov.au](mailto:Tracey.Pulli@act.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** FW: Science behind pill testing [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hello

Please see below a question from the Canberra Times on the science around pill testing.

We could answer this with our previously workshopped lines plus some additional info:

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Service staff test a small sample of received pills, then interpret and provide the results with information about the risks of consuming the substances identified in the sample.

<Science info – answer: What tests will be used (is it reagent testing), how does the test work, and what substances are tested for?>

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Pill testing enables better risk management by consumers. It can help inform decisions on whether or not to take the drug if it is found to contain unexpected substances.

Are you please able to advise?

Kind regards,  
James

From: [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]@fairfaxmedia.com.au]

Sent: Friday, 27 April 2018 10:25 AM

To: Health Media <HealthMedia@act.gov.au>

Subject: Science behind pill testing

G'day James

Cheers for the call mate - as mentioned, we are keen to do a bit of a sidebar on the science behind the testing.

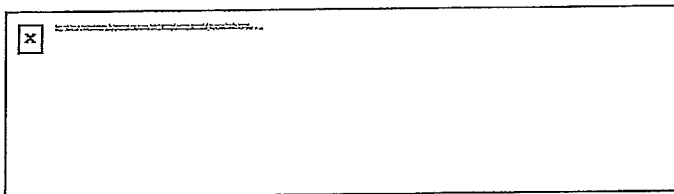
- What tests will be used (is it reagent testing), how does the test work, and what substances are tested for?

If you've got some boilerplate stuff already worked up on that kind of stuff I'd be keen to have a peek at that, and maybe I can fire through any additional questions after?

Thanks

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Reporter - The Canberra Times  
Australian Community Media

[REDACTED]@fairfaxmedia.com.au  
9 Pirie Street, Fyshwick, Canberra, ACT 2609  
www.canberratimes.com.au



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**Cramond, Sarah (Health)**

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**From:** Webber, James (Health) on behalf of Health Media  
**Sent:** Friday, 27 April 2018 11:08 AM  
**To:** Harper, Emily (Health)  
**Cc:** Kelly, Paul (Health); McNeill, Laura (Health); Pulli, Tracey (Health)  
**Subject:** FW: ACA - Pill testing at GTM [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi Emily

A Current Affair would like to do a story on the pill testing trial.

At this stage I think all we can do is forward the request on to Cattleyard for consideration.

Kind regards,  
 James

James Webber  
 Senior Communication Officer  
 Strategic Communications and Media | ACT Health

P | 6207 5841 M [REDACTED]  
 E | [james.webber@act.gov.au](mailto:james.webber@act.gov.au)  
 URL | [www.health.act.gov.au](http://www.health.act.gov.au)

**From:** [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]@nine.com.au]  
**Sent:** Friday, 27 April 2018 10:37 AM  
**To:** Health Media <HealthMedia@act.gov.au>  
**Subject:** ACA - Pill testing at GTM

Hi

I've just spoken to Tracy about doing a story on the pill testing trial at GTM in Canberra this weekend.

It would be a great chance to show how the festival is committed to harm-reduction, following the lead of about 20 other countries where pill testing is already undertaken.

Tracy was going to look for a contact number for Cattleyard for me when she returns to the office from a media event.

I've emailed Cattleyard, but there is not a media contact listed online.

Can you please direct me to the right contact at Cattleyard?

Thank you  
 [REDACTED]

**AC CURRENT  
 AFFAIR**  
 a division of Nine

[REDACTED]  
 A 24 Artarmon Road, Willoughby, NSW, 2068

██████████@nline.com.au



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**Cramond, Sarah (Health)**

---

**From:** Rushall, Anita (Health)  
**Sent:** Friday, 27 April 2018 11:52 AM  
**To:** Harper, Emily (Health)  
**Cc:** Douglas, Cynthia (Health)  
**Subject:** FOR ACTION: Pill testing web content- summary of key operations [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]  
**Attachments:** Attachment D - Summary Key Operational Features - aredit.doc

Hi Emily,

We have updated the web content for you.

**Please note:** We have left the section called 'Key Operational Requirements' which is located at the end of the page. This was originally for a ministerial media release but going back on my e-mails, it seems to have been included last minute by the mins office as web content attachment.

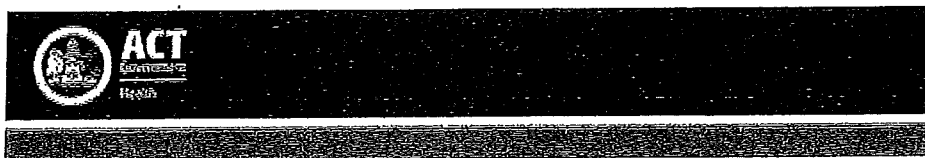
Can you please confirm if you would like this text to remain on the webpage <http://www.health.act.gov.au/pilltesting> or for us to remove it?

Kind regards,

Anita Rushall | Health Literacy Officer

*Care ▲ Excellence ▲ Collaboration ▲ Integrity*

Level 3, 2-6 Bowes Street Woden 2606  
 PO Box 11, Woden ACT 2606  
 Phone: 6205 9281 Email: [anita.rushall@act.gov.au](mailto:anita.rushall@act.gov.au)



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**From:** Harper, Emily (Health)  
**Sent:** Friday, 27 April 2018 10:39 AM  
**To:** Douglas, Cynthia (Health) <Cynthia.Douglas@act.gov.au>  
**Cc:** Tobler, Elizabeth (Health) <Elizabeth.Tobler@act.gov.au>; Rushall, Anita (Health) <Anita.Rushall@act.gov.au>; Arnold, Megan (Health) <Megan.Arnold@act.gov.au>; Nixon, Erica (Health) <Erica.Nixon@act.gov.au>; Kelly, Paul (Health) <Paul.Kelly@act.gov.au>; ACT Health, Director HIB Support <DirectorHIBSupport@act.gov.au>; McNeill, Laura (Health) <Laura.McNeill@act.gov.au>; Owen, Kimberly (Health) <Kimberly.Owen@act.gov.au>; Pulli, Tracey (Health) <Tracey.Pulli@act.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR ACTION: Pill testing web content [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi Cynthia,

Please see attached cleared amendments to the web page. Thanks to you and team for working to pull this together. As to social etc, there is no intention at this stage for anything proactive at all. This is at the request of the promoter.

Please do let me know once the amendments have been made.

Kind regards,

*Emily Harper*

Executive Director, Health Improvement Branch  
Population Health Protection and Prevention | ACT Health  
PH 6205 2245 | MOB [REDACTED] FAX 6205 1884  
2-6 Bowes Street, PHILLIP ACT 2606 | GPO Box 825, Canberra City ACT 2601  
E [emily.harper@act.gov.au](mailto:emily.harper@act.gov.au)



**From:** Douglas, Cynthia (Health)  
**Sent:** Friday, 27 April 2018 10:27 AM  
**To:** Harper, Emily (Health) <[Emily.Harper@act.gov.au](mailto:Emily.Harper@act.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** Tobler, Elizabeth (Health) <[Elizabeth.Tobler@act.gov.au](mailto:Elizabeth.Tobler@act.gov.au)>; Rushall, Anita (Health) <[Anita.Rushall@act.gov.au](mailto:Anita.Rushall@act.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** FOR ACTION: Pill testing web content [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi Emily

My team have been liaising with Megan Arnold around communication support that may or may not be required for Pill Testing. When she spoke to my staff member this morning she said she didn't know what was happening. I understand that you don't want any proactive communication but we need to amend the existing web content slightly (it still talks about Spilt Milk). Revised text attached for your approval.

<http://www.health.act.gov.au/pilltesting>

I have a revised communication strategy and social media if we need it and you believe it is appropriate.

Kind Regards

Cynthia

Cynthia Douglas  
Senior Manager  
Communication and Stakeholder Engagement  
Government and Communication  
ACT Health  
(02) 6207 9149  
[REDACTED]



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## ATTACHMENT D- FOR MINISTERIAL MEDIA RELEASE

### Summary of key operational features of a harm reduction service offering 'pill testing' at a major music festival in the ACT

#### *Operational elements of pill testing services offered by a harm reduction service at a major music festival*

- A separate stand-alone service will be established, located in close proximity to the event's medical area.
- The staff undertaking pill testing will be appropriately trained in using pill testing equipment
- Staff who are trained in drug counselling will deliver advice and intervention about drug use
- The equipment used for pill testing must be able to reliably, within an acceptable timeframe, identify the major drug present in an unknown tablet or powder as well as potentially detect adulterants and/or substances that are unknown.
- Regular communication should flow between the event organiser as well as ambulance and medical personnel in the nearby medical area to share information on the results of pill testing; this regular communication should assist with informing medical procedures in the case of overdose or other adverse event.
- Pill testing has limitations and these must be communicated to patrons of the pill testing service. This includes communicating that pill testing does not guarantee identification of each substance contained within a substance.
- Each patron must be directly notified, regardless of the pill testing result, that drug taking is inherently unsafe. Each patron must be notified that safe disposal of drugs is the best way to avoid health risk.
- The service must provide an amnesty bin for safe disposal of drugs. These drugs must be destroyed onsite such that
- Bins must be provided by the service for safe disposal of drugs. The drugs contained in amnesty bins must be destroyed on site, such that they cannot be reconstituted and safely disposed of at the conclusion of the event by the harm reduction service.
- The harm reduction service will collect evaluative data, which would include but not be limited to:
  - The number of patrons attending the service
  - The number of brief interventions as well as pill tests delivered
  - The number of patrons who discarded their drug at the service
  - The chemical content detected in each sample tested



**ATTACHMENT D- FOR MINISTERIAL MEDIA RELEASE****Summary of key operational features of a harm reduction service offering 'pill testing' at a major music festival in the ACT**

- This data must be shared with key stakeholders so that it may inform possible pill testing in the future, both for safety and operational aspects. This might include for example, communicating to police and public health of the circulation of illicit drugs, notably contaminated drugs, substances of high purity or novel psychoactive substances.

**Cramond, Sarah (Health)**

---

**From:** Pulli, Tracey (Health)  
**Sent:** Friday, 27 April 2018 12:04 PM  
**To:** Johnston, ClaireV  
**Cc:** Kelly, Paul (Health); Harper, Emily (Health); Attridge, Vanessa; ACT Health DLO; Anderson, Judy; Andersen, Jackie (Health); Dal Molin, Vanessa (Health)  
**Subject:** FW: Health [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi Claire

Please see email below from ACT Policing.

This statement will go to media who ask for comment. ACT Policing will not be doing a stand-up or any interviews.

Cheers  
 Tracey

Tracey Pulli  
 Deputy Director of Media | ACT Health

P | 6205 3708, M | [REDACTED]  
 E | [tracey.pulli@act.gov.au](mailto:tracey.pulli@act.gov.au)  
 URL | [www.health.act.gov.au](http://www.health.act.gov.au)

**From:** [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]@afp.gov.au]  
**Sent:** Friday, 27 April 2018 11:14 AM  
**To:** Pulli, Tracey (Health) <[Tracey.Pulli@act.gov.au](mailto:Tracey.Pulli@act.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Health [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

**PILL TESTING**

Whilst ACT Policing does not condone the use of illicit drugs, we do support harm minimisation strategies such as the decision to provide an accommodating environment to allow for pill testing at Groovin The Moo.

Education and prevention measures, such as pill testing are key strategies in the challenge to reduce illicit drug use.

ACT Policing will not actively target the health precinct or their users in line with well-established protocols with ACT Health facilities.

As a police force, we will continue to target and investigate the sale and supply of illicit drugs.



POLICING FOR  
A SAFER AUSTRALIA

UNCLASSIFIED

\*\*\*\*\*

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AFP Web site: <http://www.afp.gov.au>

\*\*\*\*\*

**Cramond, Sarah (Health)**

---

**From:** Rushall, Anita (Health)  
**Sent:** Friday, 27 April 2018 1:30 PM  
**To:** Harper, Emily (Health)  
**Cc:** Douglas, Cynthia (Health); Harrison, Paul (Health)  
**Subject:** RE: FOR ACTION: Pill testing web content- summary of key operations [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi Emily,

Just confirming our conversation that we will leave the summary of key operations on the website.

Kind regards,

Anita Rushall | Health Literacy Officer

*Care ▲ Excellence ▲ Collaboration ▲ Integrity*

Level 3, 2-6 Bowes Street Woden 2606  
 PO Box 11, Woden ACT 2606  
 Phone: 6205 9281 Email: [anita.rushall@act.gov.au](mailto:anita.rushall@act.gov.au)



@ACTHealth



[facebook.com/ACTHealthDirectorate](https://www.facebook.com/ACTHealthDirectorate)

**From:** Rushall, Anita (Health)  
**Sent:** Friday, 27 April 2018 11:52 AM  
**To:** Harper, Emily (Health) <Emily.Harper@act.gov.au>  
**Cc:** Douglas, Cynthia (Health) <Cynthia.Douglas@act.gov.au>  
**Subject:** FOR ACTION: Pill testing web content- summary of key operations [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi Emily,

We have updated the web content for you.

**Please note:** We have left the section called 'Key Operational Requirements' which is located at the end of the page. This was originally for a ministerial media release but going back on my e-mails, it seems to have been included last minute by the mins office as web content attachment.

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Kind regards,

Anita Rushall | Health Literacy Officer

Care ▲ Excellence ▲ Collaboration ▲ Integrity

Level 3, 2-6 Bowes Street Woden 2606  
 PO Box 11, Woden ACT 2606  
 Phone: 6205 9281 Email: [anita.rushall@act.gov.au](mailto:anita.rushall@act.gov.au)



@ACTHealth



facebook.com/ACTHealthDirectorate

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**Sent:** Friday, 27 April 2018 10:39 AM  
**To:** Douglas, Cynthia (Health) <[Cynthia.Douglas@act.gov.au](mailto:Cynthia.Douglas@act.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** Tobler, Elizabeth (Health) <[Elizabeth.Tobler@act.gov.au](mailto:Elizabeth.Tobler@act.gov.au)>; Rushall, Anita (Health) <[Anita.Rushall@act.gov.au](mailto:Anita.Rushall@act.gov.au)>; Arnold, Megan (Health) <[Megan.Arnold@act.gov.au](mailto:Megan.Arnold@act.gov.au)>; Nixon, Erica (Health) <[Erica.Nixon@act.gov.au](mailto:Erica.Nixon@act.gov.au)>; Kelly, Paul (Health) <[Paul.Kelly@act.gov.au](mailto:Paul.Kelly@act.gov.au)>; ACT Health, Director HIB Support <[DirectorHIBSupport@act.gov.au](mailto:DirectorHIBSupport@act.gov.au)>; McNeill, Laura (Health) <[Laura.McNeill@act.gov.au](mailto:Laura.McNeill@act.gov.au)>; Owen, Kimberly (Health) <[Kimberly.Owen@act.gov.au](mailto:Kimberly.Owen@act.gov.au)>; Pulli, Tracey (Health) <[Tracey.Pulli@act.gov.au](mailto:Tracey.Pulli@act.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR ACTION: Pill testing web content [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi Cynthia,

Please see attached cleared amendments to the web page. Thanks to you and team for working to pull this together. As to social etc, there is no intention at this stage for anything proactive at all. This is at the request of the promoter.

Please do let me know once the amendments have been made.

Kind regards,

*Emily Harper*

Executive Director, Health Improvement Branch  
 Population Health Protection and Prevention | ACT Health  
 PH 6205 2245 | MOB [REDACTED] | FAX 6205 1884  
 2-6 Bowes Street, PHILLIP ACT 2606 | GPO Box 825, Canberra City ACT 2601  
 E [emily.harper@act.gov.au](mailto:emily.harper@act.gov.au)



**From:** Douglas, Cynthia (Health)  
**Sent:** Friday, 27 April 2018 10:27 AM  
**To:** Harper, Emily (Health) <[Emily.Harper@act.gov.au](mailto:Emily.Harper@act.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** Tobler, Elizabeth (Health) <[Elizabeth.Tobler@act.gov.au](mailto:Elizabeth.Tobler@act.gov.au)>; Rushall, Anita (Health) <[Anita.Rushall@act.gov.au](mailto:Anita.Rushall@act.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** FOR ACTION: Pill testing web content [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi Emily

My team have been liaising with Megan Arnold around communication support that may or may not be required for Pill Testing. When she spoke to my staff member this morning she said she didn't know what was happening. I understand that you don't want any proactive communication but we need to amend the existing web content slightly (it still talks about Spilt Milk). Revised text attached for your approval.

<http://www.health.act.gov.au/pilltesting>

I have a revised communication strategy and social media if we need it and you believe it is appropriate.

Kind Regards

Cynthia

Cynthia Douglas  
Senior Manager  
Communication and Stakeholder Engagement  
Government and Communication  
ACT Health  
(02) 6207 9149  
[REDACTED]



Care ▲ Excellence ▲ Collaboration ▲ Integrity

**Cramond, Sarah (Health)**

---

**From:** Harper, Emily (Health)  
**Sent:** Friday, 27 April 2018 1:58 PM  
**To:** Pulli, Tracey (Health)  
**Cc:** Kelly, Paul (Health); McNeill, Laura (Health); Health Media  
**Subject:** FW: Media Enquiries [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi Tracey (and James)

Please see email below with respect to Cattleyard. As discussed previously, enquiries relating to filming on site will need to be directed to Cattleyard.

Happy to discuss further.

Kind regards,

*Emily Harper*

Executive Director, Health Improvement Branch  
 Population Health Protection and Prevention | ACT Health  
 PH 6205 2245 | MOB [REDACTED] FAX 6205 1884  
 2-6 Bowes Street, PHILLIP ACT 2606 | GPO Box 825, Canberra City ACT 2601.  
 E emily.harper@act.gov.au



**From:** Attridge, Vanessa  
**Sent:** Friday, 27 April 2018 1:49 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]@cattleyard.com' <[REDACTED]@cattleyard.com>  
**Cc:** Harper, Emily (Health) <Emily.Harper@act.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Media Enquiries [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Dear [REDACTED]

We have received many media enquiries today and have tried to respect the wishes of Cattleyard as much as possible. We also understand you are probably receiving a number of enquiries and apologise for the impact of this on you.

We are going to need to respond to some of these enquiries and understand this is currently outside of the agreed terms and talking points agreed yesterday. Can you please let us know if you are not comfortable with that? Responding to some of these requests should also relieve some of the pressure on everyone involved, if we can be on the front foot with media enquiries as they come in. Ministers are also elected representatives who need to be accountable to the public and answer questions on policy decisions.

In respect of Cattleyard concerns, we will try to limit comments regarding the trial and instead speak more generally about the operations of pill testing as a harm minimisation approach.

UC have also been asked for comment as a key stakeholder, are you comfortable with this response from them:

*The University of Canberra has previously stated that it would support a pill-testing trial at the music festival held on University grounds, provided the main stakeholders and relevant authorities were in agreement, as is now the case.*

*The University does not condone illicit drug use but views the trialling of pill-testing as a public health measure to reduce the risk of harm and help keep young people safe.*

Finally, [REDACTED] has also received a number of requests for comment and we would welcome your reconsideration of [REDACTED] providing comment as a health professional on this issue.

Hope all the preparations for the event are going well - happy to discuss - [REDACTED]

Kind regards,

Vanessa

Vanessa Attridge | Chief of Staff  
Office of Meegan Fitzharris MLA  
Member for Yerrabi  
Minister for Health and Wellbeing  
Minister for Transport and City Services  
Minister for Higher Education, Training and Research

P. (02) 6205 3502 | E. [vanessas.attridge@act.gov.au](mailto:vanessas.attridge@act.gov.au)





**Cramond, Sarah (Health)**

---

**From:** Webber, James (Health) on behalf of Health Media  
**Sent:** Friday, 27 April 2018 2:31 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED] Health Media  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: VICE | Media Request [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi [REDACTED]

Media access to the festival site may be granted by the festival organiser, Cattleyard Promotions.

You will need to direct your request to them:

HELLO@CATTLEYARD.COM

(02) 9318 6300

Kind regards,

James

James Webber

Senior Communication Officer

Strategic Communications and Media | ACT Health

P | 6207 5841 M

E | james.webber@act.gov.au <mailto:james.webber@act.gov.au>

URL | www.health.act.gov.au <http://www.health.act.gov.au/>

**From:** [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]@vice.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, 27 April 2018 1:33 PM  
**To:** Health Media <HealthMedia@act.gov.au>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@vice.com>

Subject: VICE | Media Request

Hey there,

Thanks so much for chatting to me on the phone just now.

I am hoping I might be able to organise some sort of filming access with the dept of Health for the Groovin the Moo festival day. We operate as an incredibly low-impact crew with 1 x camera and on-board microphones.

VICE is a global youth media company and the industry leader in producing the best online video content in the world. VICE currently reaches more than half of millennials in Australia and New Zealand, and attracts 2.5 million video views each month. VICE also has a free-to-air TV channel in Australia called SBS VICELAND.

Internationally, we have a reputation for being the go-to source for drug safety information for young people, and know how to make content that will engage that same demographic. I think it is incredibly important that VICE has a voice in this event, and working/embedding with ACT Health would be a great way to share the point of view of ACT health, while also creating engaging and important content for young people.

I am hoping I might be able to jump on the phone with a member of your team sometime soon. My number is [REDACTED]

Thanks so much,

VICE

89 Rupert St Collingwood,

<<https://maps.google.com/?q=89+Rupert+St+Collingwood,+%C2%A0VIC+3066&entry=gmail&source=g>> VIC 3066

<<https://maps.google.com/?q=89+Rupert+St+Collingwood,+%C2%A0VIC+3066&entry=gmail&source=g>>

p: +61 [REDACTED] | m: [REDACTED]

**Cramond, Sarah (Health)**

---

**From:** Harper, Emily (Health)  
**Sent:** Friday, 27 April 2018 2:39 PM  
**To:** Health Media; McNeill, Laura (Health)  
**Cc:** Pulli, Tracey (Health); Kelly, Paul (Health); McNeill, Laura (Health); Owen, Kimberly (Health)  
**Subject:** RE: Science behind pill testing [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi James,

See edited response below in red, which is cleared.

Note that further info can be sought from our website.

Let me know if anything additional is required.

Cheers,

*Emily Harper*

Executive Director, Health Improvement Branch  
 Population Health Protection and Prevention | ACT Health  
 PH 6205 2245 | MOB [REDACTED] | FAX 6205 1884  
 2-6 Bowes Street, PHILLIP ACT 2606 | GPO Box 825, Canberra City ACT 2601  
 E emily.harper@act.gov.au



**From:** Webber, James (Health) **On Behalf Of** Health Media  
**Sent:** Friday, 27 April 2018 10:42 AM  
**To:** McNeill, Laura (Health) <Laura.McNeill@act.gov.au>; Harper, Emily (Health) <Emily.Harper@act.gov.au>; Health Media <HealthMedia@act.gov.au>  
**Cc:** Pulli, Tracey (Health) <Tracey.Pulli@act.gov.au>  
**Subject:** FW: Science behind pill testing [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hello

Please see below a question from the Canberra Times on the science around pill testing.

We could answer this with our previously workshopped lines plus some additional info:

The pill testing trial will be conducted by an independent consortium, STA-SAFE.

Festival goers will be able to have their pills tested at a facility adjacent to first aid services and the ambulance service. The testing facility will be enclosed to provide privacy for people seeking to have their pills tested, similar to a medical cubicle.

Service staff test a small sample of received pills, then interpret and provide the results with information about the risks of consuming the substances identified in the sample.

The testing will be conducted by highly trained analysts using state of the art equipment.

The composition of illicit drugs is highly variable and unpredictable. The makers of illicit drugs will frequently cut pills with other substances, or substitute other more dangerous drugs entirely. Drugs may also be produced and distributed in unfavourable environments.

Pill testing enables better risk management by consumers. It can help inform decisions on whether or not to take the drug if it is found to contain unexpected substances.

Are you please able to advise?

Kind regards,  
James

**From:** [redacted] [mailto:[redacted]@fairfaxmedia.com.au]  
**Sent:** Friday, 27 April 2018 10:25 AM  
**To:** Health Media <HealthMedia@act.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Science behind pill testing

G'day James

Cheers for the call mate - as mentioned, we are keen to do a bit of a sidebar on the science behind the testing.

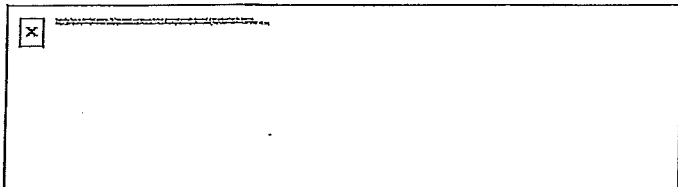
- What tests will be used (is it reagent testing), how does the test work, and what substances are tested for?

If you've got some boilerplate stuff already worked up on that kind of stuff I'd be keen to have a peek at that, and maybe I can fire through any additional questions after?

Thanks

[redacted]  
[redacted]  
Reporter - The Canberra Times  
Australian Community Media

[redacted]@Fairfaxmedia.com.au  
9 Pirie Street, Fyshwick, Canberra, ACT 2609  
www.canberratimes.com.au



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**Cramond, Sarah (Health)**

---

**From:** Webber, James (Health) on behalf of Health Media  
**Sent:** Friday, 27 April 2018 4:04 PM  
**To:** Johnston, ClaireV; Health Media  
**Cc:** Pulli, Tracey (Health)  
**Subject:** RE: Science behind pill testing [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

No problem, I added that line and sent on to Canberra Times.

Kind regards,  
 James

**From:** Johnston, ClaireV  
**Sent:** Friday, 27 April 2018 3:32 PM  
**To:** Health Media <HealthMedia@act.gov.au>  
**Cc:** Pulli, Tracey (Health) <Tracey.Pulli@act.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: Science behind pill testing [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Thanks, yes this is good.

Can we add in:

The ACT Government acknowledges that Cattleyard has always had the best interests of patrons at their event at heart. All parties have had to do their due diligence to ensure this trial operates effectively.

This statement has been agreed with Cattleyard.

Cheers  
 Claire

**From:** Webber, James (Health) On Behalf Of Health Media  
**Sent:** Friday, 27 April 2018 3:15 PM  
**To:** Johnston, ClaireV <ClaireV.Johnston@act.gov.au>; Health Media <HealthMedia@act.gov.au>  
**Cc:** Pulli, Tracey (Health) <Tracey.Pulli@act.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: Science behind pill testing [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi Claire

Here's a response we've workshopped with Pop Health.

Conscious that Cattleyard has been inundated with requests today and it might be hard to get them to clear this. We believe it is closely aligned with information that is already publicly available on the website so we could send it to them as an FYI instead.

The pill testing trial will be conducted by an independent consortium, STA-SAFE.

Festival goers will be able to have their pills tested at a facility adjacent to first aid services and the ambulance service. The testing facility will be enclosed to provide privacy for people seeking to have their pills tested, similar to a medical cubicle.

Service staff test a small sample of received pills, then interpret and provide the results with information about the risks of consuming the substances identified in the sample.

The testing will be conducted by highly trained analysts using state-of-the-art equipment.

The composition of illicit drugs is highly variable and unpredictable. The makers of illicit drugs will frequently cut pills with other substances, or substitute other more dangerous drugs entirely. Drugs may also be produced and distributed in unfavourable environments.

Pill testing is a harm reduction service that analyses the contents of drugs and helps consumers avoid taking unknown and potentially dangerous substances often found in illicit drugs.

Please let us know how you would like to proceed.

Kind regards,  
James

**From:** Johnston, ClaireV  
**Sent:** Friday, 27 April 2018 10:56 AM  
**To:** Health Media <HealthMedia@act.gov.au>  
**Cc:** Pulli, Tracey (Health) <Tracey.Pulli@act.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: Science behind pill testing [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Thanks James. I'm happy for this to just be information provided by ACT Health if Cattleyard are ok with it.

**From:** Webber, James (Health) On Behalf Of Health Media  
**Sent:** Friday, 27 April 2018 10:48 AM  
**To:** Johnston, ClaireV <ClaireV.Johnston@act.gov.au>  
**Cc:** Pulli, Tracey (Health) <Tracey.Pulli@act.gov.au>  
**Subject:** FW: Science behind pill testing [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi Claire

We've received an enquiry from Canberra Times on more specific detail around the testing – please see below. We're workshopping a response with Population Health.

Do you have a preference on whether this comes from the Directorate or Minister? We can also check in with Cattleyard on the approach.

Kind regards,  
James

**James Webber**  
 Senior Communication Officer  
 Strategic Communications and Media | ACT Health

P | 6207 5841 M | [REDACTED]  
 E | [james.webber@act.gov.au](mailto:james.webber@act.gov.au)  
 URL | [www.health.act.gov.au](http://www.health.act.gov.au)

**From:** Webber, James (Health) On Behalf Of Health Media  
**Sent:** Friday, 27 April 2018 10:42 AM  
**To:** McNeill, Laura (Health) <Laura.McNeill@act.gov.au>; Harper, Emily (Health) <Emily.Harper@act.gov.au>; Health Media <HealthMedia@act.gov.au>  
**Cc:** Pulli, Tracey (Health) <Tracey.Pulli@act.gov.au>  
**Subject:** FW: Science behind pill testing [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hello

Please see below a question from the Canberra Times on the science around pill testing.

We could answer this with our previously workshopped lines plus some additional info:

The controlled pill testing trial will be conducted by an independent consortium, STA-SAFE.

Festival goers will be able to have their pills tested at a facility adjacent to first aid services and the ambulance service. The testing facility will be enclosed to provide privacy for people seeking to have their pills tested, similar to a medical cubicle.

Service staff test a small sample of received pills, then interpret and provide the results with information about the risks of consuming the substances identified in the sample.

<Science info – answer: What tests will be used (is it reagent testing), how does the test work, and what substances are tested for?>

The composition of illicit drugs is highly variable and unpredictable. The makers of illicit drugs will frequently cut pills with other substances, or substitute other more dangerous drugs entirely. Drugs may also be produced and distributed in unfavourable environments.

Pill testing enables better risk management by consumers. It can help inform decisions on whether or not to take the drug if it is found to contain unexpected substances.

Are you please able to advise?

Kind regards,  
James

From: [REDACTED]@fairfaxmedia.com.au]

Sent: Friday, 27 April 2018 10:25 AM

To: Health Media <HealthMedia@act.gov.au>

Subject: Science behind pill testing

G'day James

Cheers for the call mate - as mentioned, we are keen to do a bit of a sidebar on the science behind the testing.

- What tests will be used (is it reagent testing), how does the test work, and what substances are tested for?

If you've got some boilerplate stuff already worked up on that kind of stuff I'd be keen to have a peek at that, and maybe I can fire through any additional questions after?

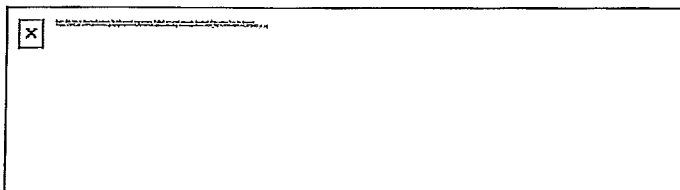
Thanks

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Reporter - The Canberra Times  
Australian Community Media





[\[redacted\]@Fairfaxmedia.com.au](mailto:[redacted]@Fairfaxmedia.com.au)  
9 Pirie Street, Fyshwick, Canberra, ACT 2609  
[www.canberratimes.com.au](http://www.canberratimes.com.au)



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**Cramond, Sarah (Health)**

---

**From:** [REDACTED]@cattleyard.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, 27 April 2018 4:39 PM  
**To:** Attridge, Vanessa; Harper, Emily (Health)  
**Subject:** Re: Media Enquiries [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

We're fine with that

Sent from my Apple Watch

On 27 Apr 2018, at 14:55, Attridge, Vanessa <VanessaS.Attridge@act.gov.au> wrote:

Hi [REDACTED]

One more question, sorry, how would you feel about the Chief Health Officer making public comment?

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Nessa

**From:** Attridge, Vanessa  
**Sent:** Friday, 27 April 2018 1:49 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]@cattleyard.com' <[REDACTED]@cattleyard.com>  
**Cc:** Harper, Emily (Health) <Emily.Harper@act.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Media Enquiries [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Dear [REDACTED]

We have received many media enquiries today and have tried to respect the wishes of Cattleyard as much as possible. We also understand you are probably receiving a number of enquiries and apologise for the impact of this on you. .

We are going to need to respond to some of these enquiries and understand this is currently outside of the agreed terms and talking points agreed yesterday. Can you please let us know if you are not comfortable with that? Responding to some of these requests should also relieve some of the pressure on everyone involved, if we can be on the front foot with media enquiries as they come in. Ministers are also elected representatives who need to be accountable to the public and answer questions on policy decisions.

In respect of Cattelyard concerns, we will try to limit comments regarding the trial and instead speak more generally about the operations of pill testing as a harm minimisation approach.

UC have also been asked for comment as a key stakeholder, are you comfortable with this response from them:

*The University of Canberra has previously stated that it would support a pill-testing trial at the music festival held on University grounds, provided the main stakeholders and relevant authorities were in agreement, as is now the case.*

*The University does not condone illicit drug use but views the trialling of pill-testing as a public health measure to reduce the risk of harm and help keep young people safe.*

Finally, [REDACTED] has also received a number of requests for comment and we would welcome your reconsideration of [REDACTED] providing comment as a health professional on this issue.

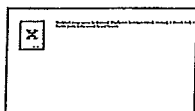
Hope all the preparations for the event are going well - happy to discuss [REDACTED]

Kind regards,

Vanessa

**Vanessa Attridge | Chief of Staff**  
**Office of Meegan Fitzharris MLA**  
Member for Yerrabi  
Minister for Health and Wellbeing  
Minister for Transport and City Services  
Minister for Higher Education, Training and Research

P. (02) 6205 3502 | E. [vanessas.attridge@act.gov.au](mailto:vanessas.attridge@act.gov.au)



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**Cramond, Sarah (Health)**

---

**From:** Harper, Emily (Health)  
**Sent:** Friday, 27 April 2018 5:14 PM  
**To:** Health Media  
**Cc:** Kelly, Paul (Health)  
**Subject:** FW: Media Enquiries [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]  
**Attachments:** image001.jpg

FYI J

Emily Harper

Executive Director, Health Improvement Branch

Population Health Protection and Prevention | ACT Health

PH 6205 2245 | MOB [REDACTED] | FAX 6205 1884

2-6 Bowes Street, PHILLIP ACT 2606 | GPO Box 825, Canberra City ACT 2601

E emily.harper@act.gov.au

From: [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]@cattleyard.com]  
Sent: Friday, 27 April 2018 4:39 PM  
To: Attridge, Vanessa <VanessaS.Attridge@act.gov.au>; Harper, Emily (Health) <Emily.Harper@act.gov.au>  
Subject: Re: Media Enquiries [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

We're fine with that

Sent from my Apple Watch

On 27 Apr 2018, at 14:55, Attridge, Vanessa <VanessaS.Attridge@act.gov.au> wrote:

Hi [REDACTED]

One more question, sorry, how would you feel about the Chief Health Officer making public comment?

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Nessa

From: Attridge, Vanessa  
Sent: Friday, 27 April 2018 1:49 PM  
To: [REDACTED] com' <[REDACTED]@cattleyard.com>  
Cc: Harper, Emily (Health) <Emily.Harper@act.gov.au>  
Subject: Media Enquiries [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Dear [REDACTED]

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The University does not condone illicit drug use but views the trialling of pill-testing as a public health measure to reduce the risk of harm and help keep young people safe.

Finally, [REDACTED] has also received a number of requests for comment and we would welcome your reconsideration of [REDACTED] providing comment as a health professional on this issue.

Hope all the preparations for the event are going well - happy to discuss - [REDACTED]

Kind regards,

Vanessa

Vanessa Attridge | Chief of Staff

Office of Meegan Fitzharris MLA

Member for Yerrabi

Minister for Health and Wellbeing

Minister for Transport and City Services

Minister for Higher Education, Training and Research

P. (02) 6205 3502 | E. [vanessas.attridge@act.gov.au](mailto:vanessas.attridge@act.gov.au) <<mailto:%20charlotte.barclay@act.gov.au>>

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**Cramond, Sarah (Health)**

---

**From:** Webber, James (Health) on behalf of Health Media  
**Sent:** Friday, 27 April 2018 5:34 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED] Health Media  
**Subject:** RE: Science behind pill testing [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi [REDACTED]

The testing technology that will be used in the trial is an infrared spectrophotometer.

Kind regards,

James

**From:** [REDACTED]@fairfaxmedia.com.au]  
**Sent:** Friday, 27 April 2018 4:02 PM  
**To:** Health Media <HealthMedia@act.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Re: Science behind pill testing

Thanks mate - any chance you can give us the name of the testing method (e.g. is it mass spec or something else?)

On 27 April 2018 at 10:24, [REDACTED]@fairfaxmedia.com.au> wrote:

G'day James

Cheers for the call mate - as mentioned, we are keen to do a bit of a sidebar on the science behind the testing.

- What tests will be used (is it reagent testing), how does the test work, and what substances are tested for?

If you've got some boilerplate stuff already worked up on that kind of stuff I'd be keen to have a peek at that, and maybe I can fire through any additional questions after?

Thanks

[REDACTED]  
 [REDACTED]  
 Reporter - The Canberra Times  
 Australian Community Media

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 0.jpg>

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 [REDACTED]  
 Reporter - The Canberra Times  
 Australian Community Media

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 pggY4Kn0vEXIAybCiO7KqjA>

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 sites.googlegroups.com/a/fairfaxmedia.com.au/emailsignatureimages/home/ACM\_THE%20CANBERRA%20TIMES\_6  
 0.jpg>

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**Cramond, Sarah (Health)**

---

**From:** Pulli, Tracey (Health)  
**Sent:** Friday, 27 April 2018 6:17 PM  
**To:** Kelly, Paul (Health); Harper, Emily (Health)  
**Subject:** Media following pill testing trial [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]  
**Attachments:** Media following pill testing trial.docx

Tracey Pulli  
Deputy Director of Media | ACT Health

P | 6205 3708 M | [REDACTED]  
E | [tracey.pulli@act.gov.au](mailto:tracey.pulli@act.gov.au)  
URL | [www.health.act.gov.au](http://www.health.act.gov.au)

## Media following pill testing trial

*Monday 30 April 2018*

See below draft media statements that have been developed in advance of Monday.

The statement will be finalised on Monday morning with information provided by STA-SAFE.

The following spokespeople will be available for comment following the event on Monday 30 May.

ACT Government:

- Minister Fitzharris (primary)
- Dr Paul Kelly (secondary)

STA-SAFE consortium:

- [REDACTED] to talk on details of how the trial went

### OPTION 1

#### Australia's first pill testing trial a success

The pill testing trial conducted by independent consortium STA-SAFE at Groovin the Moo yesterday was successful and well attended with <number of people> using the new service.

This was the first pill testing trial to be carried in Australia and enabled people who decided to do drugs at the festival to make more informed choices.

Pill testing analyses the contents of drugs and can help individuals avoid taking unknown and potentially harmful substances.

We understand from STA-SAFE that there were around <number of tests> conducted. The tests found traces of substances such as <insert details>

It is dangerous to take illicit substances and our message to the community and young people remains: 'don't do drugs'.

The ACT Government would like to thank festival organisers Cattleyard Promotions for their cooperation and acknowledge that by allowing the trial to take place, they had the best interests of their patrons at heart.

We would also like to acknowledge the STA-SAFE consortium for successfully carrying out the trial.

ACT Health will now work with STA-SAFE to evaluate the trial. This will assist us to better understand how pill testing may help reduce the harms of illicit drug use at festivals and will inform our next steps and future drug policy.

As the first trial to be conducted in Australia, we know that other jurisdictions will be looking on with interest to see the results of the evaluation. We look forward to releasing the evaluation once complete.

**ENDS**

**Further information to be provided for media interviews:**

- Number of people who decided to discard their pill in the amnesty bins.
- Information from ACTAS on incidents they responded to at the festival.

**OPTION 2****ACT Government statement on Groovin the Moo pill testing trial 30 April 2018**

The incident at the Groovin the Moo' festival on Sunday was a tragedy and underscores the risks associated with illicit drug use.

Supporting a pill testing trial at the event was about reducing harm and ensuring that people who were deciding to do drugs at the event, were doing so in a more informed way.

Pill testing provides a health intervention prior to a person taking a substance, which could be what changes their mind from taking the illicit substance and putting themselves at risk.

However, illicit drugs such as amphetamines and MDMA are inherently unsafe and pill testing cannot certify that a person will not suffer an adverse reaction as a result of taking them.

The ACT Government would like to thank festival organisers Cattleyard Promotions for their cooperation and acknowledge that by allowing the trial to take place, they had the best interests of their patrons at heart.

We would also like to acknowledge the STA-SAFE consortium for carrying out the trial.

ACT Health will now work with STA-SAFE to evaluate the trial. This will assist us to better understand how pill testing may help reduce the harms of illicit drug use at festivals and will inform our next steps and future drug policy.

As the first trial to be conducted in Australia, we know that other jurisdictions will be looking on with interest to see the results of the evaluation. We will release the evaluation once complete.

**ENDS**

**Cramond, Sarah (Health)**

---

**From:** Pulli, Tracey (Health)  
**Sent:** Friday, 27 April 2018 6:45 PM  
**To:** Johnston, ClaireV  
**Cc:** De'Ath, Michael (Health); Kelly, Paul (Health); Harper, Emily (Health); Attridge, Vanessa; ACT Health DLO; Anderson, Judy; Dal Molin, Vanessa (Health); Health Media; Coleman, Kerryn (Health); Jean, David (Health)  
**Subject:** Media for Monday following pill testing trial at GTM [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]  
**Attachments:** Media following pill testing trial.docx

Hi Claire

Apologies for the late email. As discussed this afternoon, we will inevitably be asked for comment on Monday morning on the pill testing trial at GTM and how it went.

In advance, we have drafted some media statement options (see attached). The media statement for Monday will be finalised first thing in the morning with information that Dr Kelly will receive from STA-SAFE and we will then provide this to the office.

In regards to spokespeople for Monday:

From ACT Government:

- Minister Fitzharris (primary)
- Dr Paul Kelly (secondary)

From STA-SAFE consortium:

- [REDACTED] – to talk on details of how the trial went on the day

Over the weekend, if we get calls from media outlets we will be letting them know that information will be issued following the Groovin the Moo event on Monday throughout the morning.

Give me a call if you need anything further over the weekend.

Cheers  
Tracey

Tracey Pulli  
Deputy Director of Media | ACT Health

P | 6205 3708 M | [REDACTED]  
 E | [tracey.pulli@act.gov.au](mailto:tracey.pulli@act.gov.au)  
 URL | [www.health.act.gov.au](http://www.health.act.gov.au)

**Cramond, Sarah (Health)**

---

**From:** Kelly, Paul (Health)  
**Sent:** Friday, 27 April 2018 9:52 PM  
**To:** Pulli, Tracey (Health)  
**Cc:** Harper, Emily (Health)  
**Subject:** Re: Media following pill testing trial [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Thanks Tracey.

I thoroughly recommend 'Isle of Dogs'.

On the statements. Option 1 reads well. For option 2, if we need to use this I suggest including a positive statement about number of people who used the service with a number discarding their drugs on the basis of testing. I also suggest removing specific drug names.

Thanks for your and your team's assistance today. A great team effort.

Regards

Paul

On Apr 27, 2018, at 6:17 PM, Pulli, Tracey (Health) <[Tracey.Pulli@act.gov.au](mailto:Tracey.Pulli@act.gov.au)> wrote:

Tracey Pulli  
Deputy Director of Media | ACT Health

P | 6205 3708 M | [REDACTED]  
E | [tracey.pulli@act.gov.au](mailto:tracey.pulli@act.gov.au)  
URL | [www.health.act.gov.au](http://www.health.act.gov.au)

<Media following pill testing trial.docx>

**Cramond, Sarah (Health)**

---

**From:** Attridge, Vanessa  
**Sent:** Saturday, 28 April 2018 6:09 PM  
**To:** Kelly, Paul (Health)  
**Cc:** Harper, Emily (Health); Johnston, ClaireV  
**Subject:** PT questions for media tmrw

Hi Paul/Emily,

Minister is doing media tomorrow and potential questions as follows. We have all the talking points, thank you, but you shed any light re a response to question 3, and do we have any more info on timing?

Thanks,  
Nessa

1. HOW EXACTLY WILL THIS WORK?
2. WHAT HAPPENS TO THE DRUGS THAT ARE TESTED?
3. IF IT'S VOLUNTARY AND THERE ARE NO CONSEQUENCES FROM HAVING YOUR DRUGS TESTED, WHAT'S PREVENTING SNIFFER DOGS CATCHING YOU WHEN YOU LEAVE?
4. HOW MUCH DATA IS COLLECTED AND SHARED?
5. COULD THIS ROLL OUT NATION WIDE TO RAISE AWARENESS ACROSS THE COUNTRY?

Vanessa Attridge

**Cramond, Sarah (Health)**

---

**From:** Attridge, Vanessa  
**Sent:** Saturday, 28 April 2018 6:59 PM  
**To:** Kelly, Paul (Health)  
**Cc:** Harper, Emily (Health); Johnston, ClaireV; Jean, David (Health); De'Ath, Michael (Health); Dal Molin, Vanessa (Health)  
**Subject:** Re: PT questions for media tmrw

Thanks Paul, that's very helpful.

Just one final clarification- when they say nothing is given back to the patron, does that mean the pill is scraped and what's left is so small? Or the entire pill becomes dust during the testing process..?  
 Or Does that get automatically discarded by testers. Ie does this assume everyone will have at least two pills?

Vanessa Attridge

On 28 Apr 2018, at 6:45 pm, Kelly, Paul (Health) <[Paul.Kelly@act.gov.au](mailto:Paul.Kelly@act.gov.au)> wrote:

Hi Nessa

See below. Let me know if more needed.

Paul

On Apr 28, 2018, at 6:08 PM, Attridge, Vanessa <[Vanessa.S.Attridge@act.gov.au](mailto:Vanessa.S.Attridge@act.gov.au)> wrote:

Hi Paul/Emily,

Minister is doing media tomorrow and potential questions as follows. We have all the talking points, thank you, but you shed any light re a response to question 3, and do we have any more info on timing?

Thanks,  
 Nessa

#### 1. HOW EXACTLY WILL THIS WORK?

I think Minister knows how to answer this one, she did an excellent job on 2CC on Friday and of course several times previously.

all info on how the testing will be done is on the website. Important elements are:

- private and confidential
- in the medical precinct
- a scrapping offered by the patron goes into the pill testing machine and generated a result which is shared with the patron. Residue from the test is discarded safely
- regardless of result patron is strongly advised that all drugs can cause harm and the best way of avoiding the harm is not to do drugs

#### 2. WHAT HAPPENS TO THE DRUGS THAT ARE TESTED?

- Nothing is given back to the patron
- we hope that the result of the test will influence drug raking behaviour. That is, patron decides not to do drugs
- An amnesty bin will be available at the place of testing, we hope it will be well used (as has been the case anywhere else that PT has been in place overseas. That is, many patrons decide to discard the pills and not do drugs. If even 1 person does this I would rate the trial a success)

3. IF IT'S VOLUNTARY AND THERE ARE NO CONSEQUENCES FROM HAVING YOUR DRUGS TESTED, WHAT'S PREVENTING SNIFFER DOGS CATCHING YOU WHEN YOU LEAVE?

Sniffer dogs are not used in the ACT  
 ACT policing have consistently stated they will not be targeting anyone going into the the medical precinct  
 Drug possession remains a crime in the ACT

4. HOW MUCH DATA IS COLLECTED AND SHARED?

Lots!  
 Number of requests for testing  
 Number of tests  
 What was found (that is types of drug)  
 What happened after the results were given including deciding to discard in the amnesty bin.  
 A process evaluation of the whole PT trial on the day  
 All of this will be shared. We need to learn and hope that other jurisdictions will as well

5. COULD THIS ROLL OUT NATION WIDE TO RAISE AWARENESS ACROSS THE COUNTRY?

The Minister can't answer that one, other than yes that is our hope!

Vanessa Attridge



**Cramond, Sarah (Health)**

---

**From:** Johnston, ClaireV  
**Sent:** Saturday, 28 April 2018 7:47 PM  
**To:** Attridge, Vanessa  
**Cc:** Kelly, Paul (Health); Harper, Emily (Health); Jean, David (Health); De'Ath, Michael (Health); Dal Molin, Vanessa (Health)  
**Subject:** Re: PT questions for media tmrw

And could there be instances where people only offer up half their pill for testing?

Thanks  
 Claire

Sent from my iPhone

On 28 Apr 2018, at 6:59 pm, Attridge, Vanessa <[VanessaS.Attridge@act.gov.au](mailto:VanessaS.Attridge@act.gov.au)> wrote:

Thanks Paul, that's very helpful.

Just one final clarification- when they say nothing is given back to the patron, does that mean the pill is scraped and what's left is so small? Or the entire pill becomes dust during the testing process..?

Or Does that get automatically discarded by testers. It does this assume everyone will have at least two pills?

Vanessa Attridge

On 28 Apr 2018, at 6:45 pm, Kelly, Paul (Health) <[Paul.Kelly@act.gov.au](mailto:Paul.Kelly@act.gov.au)> wrote:

Hi Nessa

See below. Let me know if more needed.

Paul

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 <[VanessaS.Attridge@act.gov.au](mailto:VanessaS.Attridge@act.gov.au)> wrote:

Hi Paul/Emily,

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Sniffer dogs are not used in the ACT

ACT policing have consistently stated they will not be targeting anyone going into the the medical precinct

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## 4. HOW MUCH DATA IS COLLECTED AND SHARED?

Lots!

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Number of tests

What was found (that is types of drug)

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A process evaluation of the whole PT trial on the day

All of this will be shared. We need to learn and hope that other jurisdictions will as well

## 5. COULD THIS ROLL OUT NATION WIDE TO RAISE AWARENESS ACROSS THE COUNTRY?

The Minister can't answer that one, other than yes that is our hope!

Vanessa Attridge

**Cramond, Sarah (Health)**

---

**From:** Attridge, Vanessa  
**Sent:** Saturday, 28 April 2018 8:49 PM  
**To:** Kelly, Paul (Health)  
**Subject:** Re: PT questions for media tmrw

Thanks very much, Paul.

Vanessa Attridge

On 28 Apr 2018, at 8:16 pm, Kelly, Paul (Health) <[Paul.Kelly@act.gov.au](mailto:Paul.Kelly@act.gov.au)> wrote:

Hi Claire

I have spoken with [REDACTED] and the approach will be in the course of the pretest conversation with the patron:  
"The larger the sample you put into the machine, the more accurate the test. so you can decide how much to put in".

In any case whatever is offered up is discarded into the bleach filled locked secure medical waste bin next to the pill testing machine. This medical waste bin will be disposed of through the standard secure laboratory processes for medical waste after the event.

I hope that helps

Paul

On Apr 28, 2018, at 7:47 PM, Johnston, ClaireV <[ClaireV.Johnston@act.gov.au](mailto:ClaireV.Johnston@act.gov.au)> wrote:

And could there be instances where people only offer up half their pill for testing?

Thanks  
Claire

Sent from my iPhone

On 28 Apr 2018, at 6:59 pm, Attridge, Vanessa <[VanessaS.Attridge@act.gov.au](mailto:VanessaS.Attridge@act.gov.au)> wrote:

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On 28 Apr 2018, at 6:45 pm, Kelly, Paul (Health)  
<Paul.Kelly@act.gov.au> wrote:

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<VanessaS.Attridge@act.gov.au> wrote:

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Vanessa Attridge

**Cramond, Sarah (Health)**

---

**From:** Jean, David (Health)  
**Sent:** Sunday, 29 April 2018 5:22 PM  
**To:** Johnston, ClaireV  
**Subject:** Fwd: Studio 10 - Interview - Pill Testing - Monday, 30 April  
**Attachments:** image003.jpg

Hi Claire. FYI below. I'm not making any promises to outlets until first thing tomorrow. We are mindful that Minister may want to take certain media so can you let me know preferences please? CHO can provide as much support as necessary.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** [REDACTED]@networkten.com.au>  
**Date:** 29 April 2018 at 2:40:08 pm AEST  
**To:** Health Media <HealthMedia@act.gov.au>  
**Cc:** "Jean, David (Health)" <David.Jean@act.gov.au>, [REDACTED]@networkten.com.au>, [REDACTED]@networkten.com.au>  
**Subject:** RE: Studio 10 - Interview - Pill Testing - Monday, 30 April

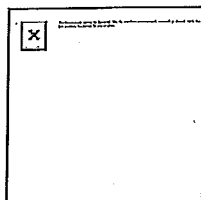
Not a problem at all.

Depending on his location, the options are:

- In studio - Sydney studio – 1 Saunders St, Pyrmont
- Parliament House Bureau - Suite 65, Press Gallery, Parliament House
- Phone interview if he is unable to make it to either of the above locations

The interview will run for about 4-5 minutes.

Thank you,  
 [REDACTED]



[REDACTED]  
 1 Saunders Street Pyrmont Sydney NSW Australia 2009

**From:** Health Media [mailto:HealthMedia@act.gov.au]  
**Sent:** Sunday, 29 April 2018 2:24 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]@networkten.com.au>  
**Cc:** Jean, David (Health) <David.Jean@act.gov.au>, [REDACTED]@networkten.com.au>, [REDACTED]@networkten.com.au>  
**Subject:** Re: Studio 10 - Interview - Pill Testing - Monday, 30 April

Thanks [REDACTED] I will see what we can do. Can you let me know where the interview would need to take place and how long it would take? Paul is likely to have a very tight schedule tomorrow so it will take some juggling.

Sent from ACT Health oncall  
iPhone

On 29 Apr 2018, at 1:40 pm, [REDACTED]@networkten.com.au> wrote:

Hi David,

Many thanks for taking my call earlier.

Studio 10 are looking at covering the topic 'Pill Testing' at 0930 tomorrow morning.

We would love to interview Dr Paul Kelly. Will he be available then?

I have cc'd out [REDACTED] and our [REDACTED]

Please let us know as soon as you have all final details confirmed.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
<image005.jpg>

<image006.jpg>

1 Saunders Street Pyrmont Sydney NSW Australia 2009

[REDACTED] m [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]@networkten.com.au  
[tenplay.com.au](http://tenplay.com.au)

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**Cramond, Sarah (Health)**

---

**From:** Health Media  
**Sent:** Sunday, 29 April 2018 7:06 PM  
**To:** Kelly, Paul (Health)  
**Cc:** Webber, James (Health); McNeill, Laura (Health)  
**Subject:** Re: Studio 10 - Interview - Pill Testing - Monday, 30 April  
**Attachments:** image003.jpg

I'll see what I can find out. Talk in the morning.

Sent from ACT Health oncall  
 iPhone

On 29 Apr 2018, at 6:03 pm, Kelly, Paul (Health) <[Paul.Kelly@act.gov.au](mailto:Paul.Kelly@act.gov.au)> wrote:

Sure David.

7 is fine. David has promised to send a brief preliminary wrap up at midnight.

Have had over 50 tests as at 4pm.

It would be good to touch base with ACTAS and Police media later this evening to get their views/plans as well. No doubt we will be asked about arrests and anyone taken to hospital by ACTAS from GTM.

Can I leave that one with you?

Paul

On Apr 29, 2018, at 5:15 PM, Health Media <[HealthMedia@act.gov.au](mailto:HealthMedia@act.gov.au)> wrote:

Thanks Paul. I'll give you a call in the morning around 7 if that is ok to assess where we are at. Suspect we will have a lot of bids for interviews. I'm in touch with MO to assess who does what. Keep me posted on how things are going. Sounds like all is well thus far.

Sent from ACT Health oncall  
 iPhone

On 29 Apr 2018, at 3:25 pm, Kelly, Paul (Health) <[Paul.Kelly@act.gov.au](mailto:Paul.Kelly@act.gov.au)> wrote:

Sure Dave. Let's touch base early tomorrow and of course Minister should have first crack at Media if she wants to.

Paul

On Apr 29, 2018, at 2:45 PM, Health Media <[HealthMedia@act.gov.au](mailto:HealthMedia@act.gov.au)> wrote:

One to consider tomorrow morning depending on how things go today. Phone interview sounds easiest given it will be busy. I'll keep you informed as other requests come in and we can assess best options.

Sent from ACT Health oncall  
iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]@networkten.com.au>  
**Date:** 29 April 2018 at 2:40:08 pm  
AEST  
**To:** Health Media  
<HealthMedia@act.gov.au>  
**Cc:** "Jean, David (Health)"  
<David.Jean@act.gov.au>, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]@networkten.com.au>, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]@networkten.com.au>  
**Subject:** RE: Studio 10 - Interview -  
Pill Testing - Monday, 30 April

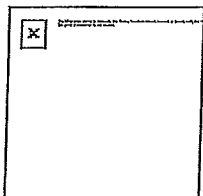
Not a problem at all.

Depending on his location, the  
options are:

- In studio - Sydney studio –  
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- Parliament House Bureau -  
Suite 65, Press Gallery,  
Parliament House
- Phone interview if he is  
unable to make it to either  
of the above locations

The interview will run for about 4-5  
minutes.

Thank you,  
[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] m. [REDACTED]  
1 Saunders Street Pyrmont Sydney NSW Australia 2009

**From:** Health Media  
[mailto:HealthMedia@act.gov.au]  
**Sent:** Sunday, 29 April 2018 2:24  
PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]@networkten.com.au>

Cc: Jean, David (Health)

<David.Jean@act.gov.au>

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Thanks [REDACTED] I will see what we  
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Paul is likely to have a very tight  
schedule tomorrow so it will take  
some juggling.

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Hi David,

Many thanks for  
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Studio 10 are  
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the topic 'Pill  
Testing' at 0930  
tomorrow morning.

We would love to  
interview Dr Paul  
Kelly. Will he be  
available then?

I have cc'd our

and

our

Please let us know  
as soon as you have  
all final details  
confirmed.

Let me know if you  
have any questions.

Thank you,

<image005.jpg>

<image006.jpg>

1 Saunders Street  
Pyrmont Sydney NS  
W Australia 2009  
t. 02 9650 0861 m.

[networkten.com.au](mailto:networkten.com.au)  
[tenplay.com.au](http://tenplay.com.au)

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attachments) is  
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the named  
addressee. If you  
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please let us know  
by reply e-mail,  
delete it from your  
system and destroy  
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<image003.jpg>

<image003.jpg>

**Cramond, Sarah (Health)**

---

**From:** Jean, David (Health)  
**Sent:** Sunday, 29 April 2018 7:36 PM  
**To:** Johnston, ClaireV  
**Cc:** Webber, James (Health); Pulli, Tracey (Health); Health Media  
**Subject:** Re: Studio 10 - Interview - Pill Testing - Monday, 30 April  
**Attachments:** image003.jpg

Will let you know as soon as we do Claire.

Sent from my iPhone

On 29 Apr 2018, at 7:24 pm, Johnston, ClaireV <ClaireV.Johnston@act.gov.au> wrote:

Thanks David. We're fine for CHO to do media such as this tomorrow.

Can you let me know as soon as you can what STA Safe are planning re media? Will they hold a press conference tomorrow?

Ta

Sent from my iPhone

On 29 Apr 2018, at 5:21 pm, Jean, David (Health) <David.Jean@act.gov.au> wrote:

Hi Claire. FYI below. I'm not making any promises to outlets until first thing tomorrow. We are mindful that Minister may want to take certain media so can you let me know preferences please? CHO can provide as much support as necessary.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@networkten.com.au>  
**Date:** 29 April 2018 at 2:40:08 pm AEST  
**To:** Health Media <HealthMedia@act.gov.au>  
**Cc:** "Jean, David (Health)" <David.Jean@act.gov.au>, [REDACTED]  
 [REDACTED]@networkten.com.au, [REDACTED]  
 [REDACTED]@networkten.com.au  
**Subject:** RE: Studio 10 - Interview - Pill Testing - Monday, 30 April

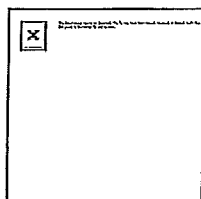
Not a problem at all.

Depending on his location, the options are:

- In studio - Sydney studio – 1 Saunders St, Pyrmont
- Parliament House Bureau - Suite 65, Press Gallery, Parliament House
- Phone interview if he is unable to make it to either of the above locations

The interview will run for about 4-5 minutes.

Thank you,  
 [REDACTED]



[REDACTED]  
 Producer  
 [REDACTED] m [REDACTED]  
 1 Saunders Street Pyrmont Sydney NSW Australia 2009

**From:** Health Media [<mailto:HealthMedia@act.gov.au>]  
**Sent:** Sunday, 29 April 2018 2:24 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@networkten.com.au>  
**Cc:** Jean, David (Health) <[David.Jean@act.gov.au](mailto:David.Jean@act.gov.au)>; [REDACTED]  
 <[REDACTED]@networkten.com.au>; [REDACTED]  
 <[REDACTED]@networkten.com.au>  
**Subject:** Re: Studio 10 - Interview - Pill Testing - Monday, 30 April

Thanks [REDACTED]. I will see what we can do. Can you let me know where the interview would need to take place and how long it would take? Paul is likely to have a very tight schedule tomorrow so it will take some juggling.

Sent from ACT Health oncall  
 iPhone

On 29 Apr 2018, at 1:40 pm, [REDACTED]  
 <[REDACTED]@networkten.com.au> wrote:

Hi David,

Many thanks for taking my call earlier.

Studio 10 are looking at covering the topic 'Pill Testing' at 0930 tomorrow morning.

We would love to interview Dr Paul Kelly. Will he be available then?

I have cc'd our [REDACTED]  
 and our [REDACTED]

Please let us know as soon as you have all final details confirmed.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



<image005.jpg>

<image006.jpg>

1 Saunders Street  
Pyrmont Sydney NSW Australia 2009

██████████@networkten.com.au  
[tenplay.com.au](http://tenplay.com.au)

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<image003.jpg>

**Cramond, Sarah (Health)**

---

**From:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@3vc.com.au>  
**Sent:** Sunday, 29 April 2018 11:12 PM  
**To:** Kelly, Paul (Health)  
**Subject:** Release for Tomorrow

Hi Paul – please see below.

Many thanks again for your support

[REDACTED]  
3V Consulting Services

M: [REDACTED]  
E: [REDACTED]@3vc.com.au

ACT Health and Minister are doing media tomorrow and are supportive of us putting out a statement about the trial.

So here is draft for comments:

On behalf of our STA-SAFE consortium partners, Harm Reduction Australia would like to advise that the first pill testing trial ever to be held in Australia took place in Canberra on Sunday the 29<sup>th</sup> of April.

With the support of the ACT Government, including ACT Health & ACT Police, as well as the University of Canberra (as the landowner on which the festival was held) and the Groovin the Moo Festival promoters, the STA-SAFE Consortium was able to successfully deliver a pill testing trial at the festival.

The service was very well received by festival goers and the trial will provide a range of information which will be provided to key stakeholders in the ACT.

The STA-SAFE consortium members are:

- ❖ Australian Drug Observatory ([REDACTED])
- ❖ Noffs Foundation ([REDACTED])
- ❖ DanceWize, Harm Reduction Victoria ([REDACTED])
- ❖ Students for Sensible Drug Policies ([REDACTED])
- ❖ Harm Reduction Australia ([REDACTED])

For further information, please contact:

[REDACTED]

**Cramond, Sarah (Health)**

---

**From:** Kelly, Paul (Health)  
**Sent:** Sunday, 29 April 2018 11:55 PM  
**To:** Jean, David (Health); Health Media  
**Subject:** Fwd: Release for Tomorrow

FYI.

This is [REDACTED] interpretation of a request to see any media statement from STA SAFE before it went out. I do not think it is up to ACT gov/ACT Health or Cattleyard to give permission at this stage.

Nothing from [REDACTED] yet, I'll check again in the morning before 7. Talk then.

Paul

Begin forwarded message:

From: [REDACTED]@3vc.com.au>  
Date: April 29, 2018 at 11:12:14 PM GMT+10  
To: "Paul Kelly " <Paul.Kelly@act.gov.au>  
Subject: Release for Tomorrow

Hi Paul – please see below.

Many hanks again for your support

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
3V Consulting Services  
[REDACTED]  
E [REDACTED]@3vc.com.au <mailto:[REDACTED]@3vc.com.au>

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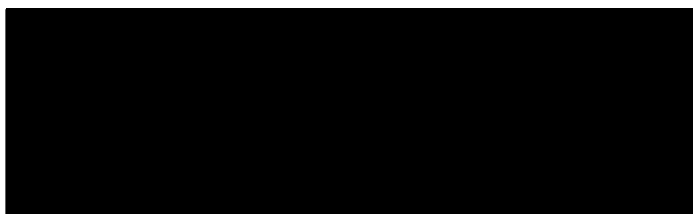
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- v Noffs Foundation ( [REDACTED] )
- v DanceWize, Harm Reduction Victoria ( [REDACTED] )
- v Students for Sensible Drug Policies ( [REDACTED] )
- v Harm Reduction Australia ( [REDACTED] )

For further information, please contact:



v Australian Drug Observatory [REDACTED]

v Noffs Foundation [REDACTED]

v DanceWize, Harm Reduction Victoria [REDACTED]

v Students for Sensible Drug Policies [REDACTED]

v Harm Reduction Australia [REDACTED]

For further information, please contact:

[REDACTED]

**Cramond, Sarah (Health)**

---

**From:** Health Media  
**Sent:** Monday, 30 April 2018 6:56 AM  
**To:** Kelly, Paul (Health)  
**Cc:** Jean, David (Health)  
**Subject:** Re: Release for Tomorrow

Thanks Paul. Three people taken by ambulance to hospital for intoxication (drugs and or alcohol) from GTM last night FYI.

Sent from ACT Health oncall  
 iPhone

On 29 Apr 2018, at 11:55 pm, Kelly, Paul (Health) <Paul.Kelly@act.gov.au> wrote:

FYI.

This is [REDACTED] interpretation of a request to see any media statement from STA SAFE before it went out. I do not think it is up to ACT gov/ACT Health or Cattleyard to give permission at this stage.

Nothing from [REDACTED] yet, I'll check again in the morning before 7. Talk then.

Paul

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@3vc.com.au>  
**Date:** April 29, 2018 at 11:12:14 PM GMT+10  
**To:** "Paul Kelly " <Paul.Kelly@act.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Release for Tomorrow

Hi Paul – please see below.

Many hanks again for your support

[REDACTED]  
 3V Consulting Services

E: [REDACTED]@3vc.com.au

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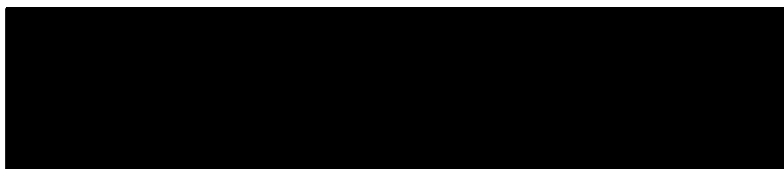
With the support of the ACT Government, including ACT Health & ACT Police, as well as the University of Canberra (as the landowner on which the festival was held) and the Groovin the Moo Festival promoters, the STA-SAFE Consortium was able to successfully deliver a pill testing trial at the festival.

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- ❖ Noffs Foundation [REDACTED]
- ❖ DanceWize, Harm Reduction Victoria [REDACTED]
- ❖ Students for Sensible Drug Policies [REDACTED]
- ❖ Harm Reduction Australia [REDACTED]

**For further information, please contact:**



**Cramond, Sarah (Health)**

---

**From:** Attridge, Vanessa  
**Sent:** Monday, 30 April 2018 7:19 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]@cattleyard.com  
**Cc:** Kelly, Paul (Health); Harper, Emily (Health)  
**Subject:** Thank you

Dear [REDACTED]

I hope you had very successful events over the weekend - by all accounts the ACT festival went very well and I wanted to express our thanks to you and Cattleyard for your collaboration and support of the pill testing trial yesterday.

Initial information seems that the trial was successful and well supported by patrons, and I am grateful for your commitment to this important harm minimisation activity.

It's likely there will continue to be media interest this week which the government and others are likely to respond to following the event, and I understand you are comfortable with that.

Thanks again.

Kind regards,  
Vanessa

Vanessa Attridge



**Cramond, Sarah (Health)**

---

**From:** Jean, David (Health)  
**Sent:** Monday, 30 April 2018 7:28 AM  
**To:** Kelly, Paul (Health)  
**Cc:** Health Media  
**Subject:** Re: Release for Tomorrow

MO very happy for him to do media.

Sent from my iPhone

On 30 Apr 2018, at 7:13 am, Kelly, Paul (Health) <[Paul.Kelly@act.gov.au](mailto:Paul.Kelly@act.gov.au)> wrote:

Hi David,

██████████ just texted me asking if Ok for him to do media?

Please check with Mins Office, my advice is just let him talk.

Paul

On Apr 30, 2018, at 6:55 AM, Health Media <[HealthMedia@act.gov.au](mailto:HealthMedia@act.gov.au)> wrote:

Thanks Paul. Three people taken by ambulance to hospital for intoxication (drugs and or alcohol) from GTM last night FYI.

Sent from ACT Health oncall  
 iPhone

On 29 Apr 2018, at 11:55 pm, Kelly, Paul (Health) <[Paul.Kelly@act.gov.au](mailto:Paul.Kelly@act.gov.au)> wrote:

FYI.

This is ██████████ interpretation of a request to see any media statement from STA SAFE before it went out. I do not think it is up to ACT gov/ACT Health or Cattleyard to give permission at this stage.

Nothing from ██████████ yet, I'll check again in the morning before 7. Talk then.

Paul

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** ██████████ <[██████████@3vc.com.au](mailto:██████████@3vc.com.au)>  
**Date:** April 29, 2018 at 11:12:14 PM GMT+10  
**To:** "Paul Kelly " <[Paul.Kelly@act.gov.au](mailto:Paul.Kelly@act.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Release for Tomorrow

Hi Paul – please see below.

Many hanks again for your support

[REDACTED]  
 [REDACTED]  
 3V Consulting Services

E: [REDACTED]@3vc.com.au

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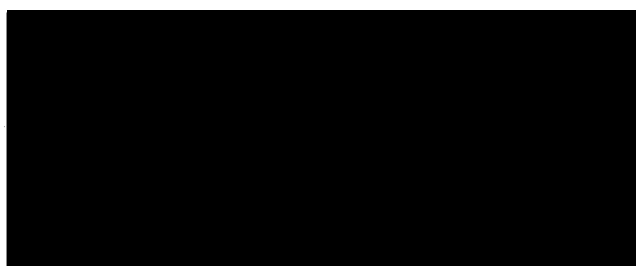
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- ❖ Noffs Foundation [REDACTED]
- ❖ DanceWize, Harm Reduction Victoria [REDACTED]
- ❖ Students for Sensible Drug Policies [REDACTED]
- ❖ Harm Reduction Australia [REDACTED]

**For further information, please contact:**



**Cramond, Sarah (Health)**

---

**From:** Jean, David (Health)  
**Sent:** Monday, 30 April 2018 8:09 AM  
**To:** De'Ath, Michael (Health)  
**Cc:** Dal Molin, Vanessa (Health)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Pill Testing Trial [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi Michael. By all reports the pill testing went quite well yesterday. Below is a good summary. I've been in regular contact with Paul Kelly and Min's Office. All seem quite happy.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Kelly, Paul (Health)" <Paul.Kelly@act.gov.au>  
**Date:** 30 April 2018 at 6:48:33 am AEST  
**To:** "Keene, Toby" <Toby.Keene@act.gov.au>  
**Cc:** "Wren, Howard" <Howard.Wren@act.gov.au>, "Foot, David" <David.Foot@act.gov.au>, "Pulli, Tracey (Health)" <Tracey.Pulli@act.gov.au>, "Pryce, David" <David.Pryce@act.gov.au>, "Wood, Jon" <Jon.Wood@act.gov.au>, "Jean, David (Health)" <David.Jean@act.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Re: Pill Testing Trial [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Toby

Thanks so much for this very comprehensive report at such a late hour after such a long day.

Regards,

Paul Kelly

On Apr 30, 2018, at 12:44 AM, Keene, Toby <Toby.Keene@act.gov.au> wrote:

Dear all

I have been asked to provide a brief report on the pill testing trial at Grooving the Moo today. I was the ambulance commander on site and responsible for all first aid and ambulance activities and while not responsible for their activities, I liaised closely with other health services on site, including Head Space and Red Frogs as well as the pill testing consortium.

I received very good information from the pill testing consortium. They were pleasantly surprised by the number of patrons presenting for testing. At the event start, they were expecting to test no more than 30 pills across the event. When they closed, they had interviewed approximately 130 patrons and conducted 86 tests. One of those tests was done at the request of ACTP after a bag of capsules were handed in.

Approximately half of items tested showed inert or non-illicit substances, mostly sugar or lactose. The most unusual item detected was Polish toothpaste. Of concern in this group was the detection of anti-histamines in one pill.

Of the items where an illicit substance was detected, most were MDMA – believed to be of high purity. Smaller amounts of ketamine were detected. Of particular concern was one item where they detected a substance not previously recorded and believed to be a novel NBOMe with psycho-stimulant and hallucinogenic properties. The other concerning detection was n-ethylpentylone, a cathinone implicated in fatalities overseas. Five patrons elected to surrender their drugs to the pill testers. There is no indication as to what the remaining patrons did, though security reported a number of pill bags discarded on the site; this is unusual in my experience and likely attributable to the pill testing.

Numbers seen by event medical services were consistent with previous events; 85 assessed and treated on site, 3 transported by ACTAS. Of the three transported, two were drug affected (most likely MDMA + alcohol) – neither had attended pill testing. The majority of patient presentations were for intoxication, generally alcohol and/or MDMA. There was no indication of novel or unusual illicit substances. Liaison with Red Frogs and Head Space indicated patient numbers consistent with other music festivals, again with no unusual presentations.

Overall, it appears that pill testing was successful in that a reasonable number of patrons presented for testing and a several substances were detected; mostly innocuous with a couple very concerning. However, other than possibly an increase in the amount of illicit substances discarded, there is no evidence of decreased presentations to site health services nor any noticeable change in crowd behaviour. I liaised with the ACTP Forward Commander and he agreed with this assessment and stated he would be briefing the CPO accordingly.

I am advised Minister Rattenbury attended the pill testing service, was briefed by the volunteers there and expressed his support for their work. Minister Rattenbury did not contact event health services, nor ACTP to my knowledge.

I trust this information is helpful. If I can be of further assistance, please let me know.

Regards

**Toby Keene**

Acting General Manager, Quality, Safety and Risk Management  
ACT Ambulance Service

T: (02) 6207 5845 | F: (02) 6207 9984 [REDACTED] E:  
[toby.keene@act.gov.au](mailto:toby.keene@act.gov.au)

9 Amberley Avenue, Fairbairn, ACT, 2609 | GPO Box 158, Canberra City, ACT, 2601

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**Cramond, Sarah (Health)**

---

**From:** Pulli, Tracey (Health)  
**Sent:** Monday, 30 April 2018 8:45 AM  
**To:** Kelly, Paul (Health); Harper, Emily (Health)  
**Cc:** Tobler, Elizabeth (Health); Health Media  
**Subject:** Pill testing statement - for review [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi Paul – are you okay with this?

We used the figures that Toby sent through. However, on number of tests, [REDACTED] is saying 85 on radio now so we have used this.

Cheers



# Media release

## **MEEGAN FITZHARRIS** MLA

Minister for Health and Wellbeing  
 Minister for Transport and City Services  
 Minister for Higher Education, Training and Research

Member for Yerrabi

30 April 2018

### **Australia's first pill testing trial a success**

The pill testing trial conducted by independent consortium STA-SAFE at Groovin the Moo yesterday was successful and well attended with approximately 130 patrons using the new service.

This was the first pill testing trial to be carried in Australia and enabled people who decided to do drugs at the festival to make more informed choices. Pill testing analyses the contents of drugs and can help individuals avoid taking unknown and potentially harmful substances.

We understand from STA-SAFE that there were approximately 130 patrons use the facility with around 85 tests conducted.

Of the items where an illicit substance was detected, most were MDMA. Smaller amounts of ketamine were detected. Of particular concern was one item where they detected a substance not previously recorded and believed to be a novel NBOME with psycho-stimulant and hallucinogenic properties. The other concerning detection was n-ethypentylone, a cathinone implicated in fatalities overseas.

What these results show is that there is a demand for this service at events such as music festivals.

---

It is dangerous to take illicit substances and our message to the community and young people remains: 'don't do drugs'.

The ACT Government would like to thank festival organisers Cattleyard Promotions for their cooperation and acknowledge that by allowing the trial to take place, they had the best interests of their patrons at heart.

We would also like to acknowledge the STA-SAFE consortium for successfully carrying out the trial.

ACT Health will now work with STA-SAFE to evaluate the trial. This will assist us to better understand how pill testing may help reduce the harms of illicit drug use at festivals and will inform our next steps and future drug policy.

As the first trial to be conducted in Australia, we know that other jurisdictions will be looking on with interest to see the results of the evaluation. We look forward to releasing the evaluation once complete.

**ENDS**

**Statement Ends**




**Media contact:**

Claire Johnston    T (02) 6205 0022    M [REDACTED]    E [ClaireV.Johnston@act.gov.au](mailto:ClaireV.Johnston@act.gov.au)

**ACT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

Phone (02) 6205 0051

[fitzharris@act.gov.au](mailto:fitzharris@act.gov.au)

 [@MeeganFitzharrisMLA](https://twitter.com/MeeganFitzharrisMLA)     [MeeganFitzharrisMLA](https://www.facebook.com/MeeganFitzharrisMLA)     [meeganfitzmla](https://www.instagram.com/meeganfitzmla)

**Cramond, Sarah (Health)**

---

**From:** Kelly, Paul (Health)  
**Sent:** Monday, 30 April 2018 8:56 AM  
**To:** Pulli, Tracey (Health); Harper, Emily (Health)  
**Cc:** Tobler, Elizabeth (Health); Health Media  
**Subject:** RE: Pill testing statement - for review [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]  
**Attachments:** image005.jpg; image007.png; image009.png; image010.png; image011.png; image012.png; image013.png; image001.jpg; image002.png

A couple of suggested additions and alterations below.

Paul

Dr Paul Kelly

ACT Chief Health Officer & Deputy Director-General |

Population Health | ACT Health Directorate

PH 02 6205 2108 | E [paul.kelly@act.gov.au](mailto:paul.kelly@act.gov.au) <<mailto:paul.kelly@act.gov.au>>

Paul Kelly - ACT CHO (@PKelly\_ACTCHO) on Twitter

<http://www.health.act.gov.au/healthy-living/population-health> <<http://www.health.act.gov.au/healthy-living/population-health>>

From: Pulli, Tracey (Health)  
Sent: Monday, 30 April 2018 8:45 AM  
To: Kelly, Paul (Health) <[Paul.Kelly@act.gov.au](mailto:Paul.Kelly@act.gov.au)>; Harper, Emily (Health) <[Emily.Harper@act.gov.au](mailto:Emily.Harper@act.gov.au)>  
Cc: Tobler, Elizabeth (Health) <[Elizabeth.Tobler@act.gov.au](mailto:Elizabeth.Tobler@act.gov.au)>; Health Media <[HealthMedia@act.gov.au](mailto:HealthMedia@act.gov.au)>  
Subject: Pill testing statement - for review [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

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Minister for Health and Wellbeing

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30 April 2018

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We understand from STA-SAFE that there were approximately 130 patrons use the facility with around 85 tests conducted.



Strategic Communications and Media | ACT Health

P | 6207 5841 M | [REDACTED]

E | james.webber@act.gov.au

URL | [www.health.act.gov.au](http://www.health.act.gov.au) <<http://www.health.act.gov.au/>>

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Continuing the Mission of the Sisters of the Little Company of Mary

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**Cramond, Sarah (Health)**

---

**From:** Webber, James (Health) on behalf of Health Media  
**Sent:** Monday, 30 April 2018 9:38 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED] (Calvary)  
**Cc:** Pulli, Tracey (Health)  
**Subject:** FW: Pill testing statement [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi [REDACTED]

Please see below a statement we've put together based on reports from STA-SAFE and ACT Ambulance Service and approved by the CHO.

Would you mind please forwarding on to [REDACTED] and checking that STA-SAFE is comfortable with it?

Kind regards,  
James

---

<image010.png>

**MEEGAN FITZHARRIS** MLA

Minister for Health and Wellbeing  
Minister for Transport and City Services  
Minister for Higher Education, Training and Research  
Member for Yerrabi

---

30 April 2018

**Australia's first pill testing trial a success**

The pill testing trial conducted by independent consortium STA-SAFE at Groovin the Moo yesterday was successful and well attended with approximately 130 patrons using the new service.

This was the first pill testing trial to be carried out in Australia and enabled people who decided to do drugs at the festival to make more informed choices. Pill testing analyses the contents of drugs and can help individuals avoid taking unknown and potentially harmful substances.

We understand from STA-SAFE that there were approximately 130 patrons use the facility with around 85 tests conducted.

Of the items where an illicit substance was detected, most were MDMA. Of particular concern were two items detected for the first time in the ACT. One item was believed to be a novel NBOMe with psycho-stimulant and hallucinogenic properties. The other was n-ethylpentylone, a cathinone implicated in fatalities overseas. This information has been shared with ACT police and the Chief Health Officer.

What these results show is that there is a demand for this service at events such as music festivals.

---

---

It is dangerous to take illicit substances and our message to the community and young people remains: 'don't do drugs'. This was the clear message given to patrons who attended the pill testing facility on the day.

The ACT Government would like to thank festival organisers Cattleyard Promotions for their cooperation and acknowledge that by allowing the trial to take place, they had the best interests of their patrons at heart.

We would also like to acknowledge the STA-SAFE consortium for successfully carrying out the trial.

ACT Health will now work with STA-SAFE to evaluate the trial. This will assist us to better understand how pill testing may help reduce the harms of illicit drug use at festivals and will inform our next steps and future drug policy.

As the first trial to be conducted in Australia, we know that other jurisdictions will be looking on with interest to see the results of the evaluation. We look forward to releasing the evaluation once complete.

**ENDS**

**Statement Ends**

**Media contact:**

**Claire Johnston**

**T (02) 6205 0022**



**E [ClaireV.Johnston@act.gov.au](mailto:ClaireV.Johnston@act.gov.au)**

**ACT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

Phone (02) 6205 0051

[fitzharris@act.gov.au](mailto:fitzharris@act.gov.au)

<image011.png>@MeeganFitzharrisMLA

<image012.png> MeeganFitzharrisMLA

<image013.png> meeganfitzmla

---

**Cramond, Sarah (Health)**

---

**From:** Webber, James (Health)  
**Sent:** Monday, 30 April 2018 10:18 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Pulli, Tracey (Health)  
**Subject:** RE: Media Release [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Awesome, thanks [REDACTED]

I'm open to suggestions on format – I think it makes sense for each spokesperson to do a short address then answer questions.

Would you mind letting me know [REDACTED] full title as you'd like it to appear on the alert?

Cheers,  
 James

**From:** [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]@afp.gov.au]  
**Sent:** Monday, 30 April 2018 10:15 AM  
**To:** Webber, James (Health) <James.Webber@act.gov.au>  
**Cc:** Pulli, Tracey (Health) <Tracey.Pulli@act.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: Media Release [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

**UNCLASSIFIED**

Thanks James, looks like I will have [REDACTED] for you at 12.00.

Could I trouble you to change ACT Police to ACT Policing...sorry I know it's annoying!

Also, is the plan for Dr Kelly as the lead to give the statement and all others be present for the Q&A aspect?

[REDACTED]  
 [REDACTED]  
[www.afp.gov.au](http://www.afp.gov.au)



POLICING FOR  
 A SAFER AUSTRALIA

**UNCLASSIFIED**

---

**From:** Webber, James (Health) [mailto:James.Webber@act.gov.au]  
**Sent:** Monday, 30 April 2018 9:51 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Pulli, Tracey (Health)  
**Subject:** Media Release [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi [REDACTED]

Please see below the unapproved media statement from Minister Fitzharris for reference. I've also attached ACT Ambulance's summary of

Looking forward to hearing from you about a Police spokesperson.

Thanks,  
James

**James Webber**  
Senior Communication Officer  
Strategic Communications and Media | ACT Health

P | 6207 5841 M | [REDACTED]  
E | [james.webber@act.gov.au](mailto:james.webber@act.gov.au)  
URL | [www.health.act.gov.au](http://www.health.act.gov.au)

### **Australia's first pill testing trial a success**

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As the first trial to be conducted in Australia, we know that other jurisdictions will be looking on with interest to see the results of the evaluation. We look forward to releasing the evaluation once complete.

**ENDS**

---

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\*\*\*\*\*

**Cramond, Sarah (Health)**

---

**From:** Webber, James (Health) on behalf of Health Media  
**Sent:** Monday, 30 April 2018 10:29 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED] (Calvary); Health Media  
**Cc:** Pulli, Tracey (Health)  
**Subject:** RE: Pill testing wrap up [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]  
**Attachments:** image001.jpg

**Categories:** James

Excellent, thanks very much. We'll go with: [REDACTED]

How are you going with the Minister's statement?

Cheers,

James

**From:** [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]@calvary-act.com.au]  
**Sent:** Monday, 30 April 2018 10:26 AM  
**To:** Health Media <HealthMedia@act.gov.au>  
**Cc:** Pulli, Tracey (Health) <Tracey.Pulli@act.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: Pill testing wrap up [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

James

[REDACTED] s confirmed for 12MD, must be gone by 1235 to be back for his 1pm.

Title wise, he is pretty relaxed but it could be STA SAFE representative, Senior Lecturer at the ANU, Calvary ED Specialist or a combination of any or all.

Cheers

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Calvary  
 Public Hospital Bruce  
 Cnr Belconnen Way & Haydon Drive Bruce ACT 2617 PO Box 254 Jamison Centre ACT 2614  
 [REDACTED]

E: [REDACTED]@calvary-act.com.au <mailto:[REDACTED]@calvary-act.com.au>  
www.calvary-act.com.au

From: Webber, James (Health) [mailto:James.Webber@act.gov.au] On Behalf Of Health Media  
Sent: Monday, 30 April 2018 10:21 AM  
To: [REDACTED]@calvary-act.com.au  
Cc: Pulli, Tracey <Tracey.Pulli@act.gov.au>; Health Media <HealthMedia@act.gov.au>  
Subject: RE: Pill testing wrap up [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Sorry, one more thing - what is [REDACTED] title in this capacity for the alert? Can we say he's representing STA-SAFE?

From: Webber, James (Health)  
Sent: Monday, 30 April 2018 10:18 AM  
To: [REDACTED] (Calvary) <[REDACTED]@calvary-act.com.au>  
Cc: Pulli, Tracey (Health) <Tracey.Pulli@act.gov.au>; Health Media <HealthMedia@act.gov.au>  
Subject: Pill testing wrap up [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi [REDACTED]

We're going to go ahead with the presser at 12pm in the foyer of 6 Bowes, Woden ACT.

ACT CHO and Police will attend, I'm just waiting to hear back from Ambulance. I'm open to suggestions on format - I think it makes sense for each spokesperson to do a short address then answer questions.

Would you mind please locking this in with [REDACTED]

I'm putting together a media alert now.

Cheers,

James

James Webber

Senior Communication Officer



**Cramond, Sarah (Health)**

---

**From:** [REDACTED] (Calvary)  
**Sent:** Monday, 30 April 2018 10:32 AM  
**To:** Health Media  
**Cc:** Pulli, Tracey (Health)  
**Subject:** RE: Pill testing statement [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

**Categories:** James

James, sorry mate – this looks fine, nice recognition of the promoters who I know were nervous.  
 Cheers



Public Hospital Bruce  
 Cnr Belconnen Way & Haydon Drive Bruce ACT 2617  
 PO Box 254 Jamison Centre ACT 2614

[www.calvary-act.com.au](http://www.calvary-act.com.au)

---

**From:** Webber, James (Health) [mailto:James.Webber@act.gov.au] **On Behalf Of** Health Media  
**Sent:** Monday, 30 April 2018 9:38 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@calvary-act.com.au>  
**Cc:** Pulli, Tracey <Tracey.Pulli@act.gov.au>  
**Subject:** FW: Pill testing statement [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi [REDACTED]

Please see below a statement we've put together based on reports from STA-SAFE and ACT Ambulance Service and approved by the CHO.

Would you mind please forwarding on to [REDACTED] and checking that STA-SAFE is comfortable with it?

Kind regards,  
 James

---

<image010.png>

**MEEGAN FITZHARRIS** MLA

Minister for Health and Wellbeing  
 Minister for Transport and City Services  
 Minister for Higher Education, Training and Research

Member for Yerrabi

---

30 April 2018

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The ACT Government would like to thank festival organisers Cattleyard Promotions for their cooperation and acknowledge that by allowing the trial to take place, they had the best interests of their patrons at heart.

We would also like to acknowledge the STA-SAFE consortium for successfully carrying out the trial.

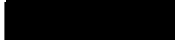
ACT Health will now work with STA-SAFE to evaluate the trial. This will assist us to better understand how pill testing may help reduce the harms of illicit drug use at festivals and will inform our next steps and future drug policy.

As the first trial to be conducted in Australia, we know that other jurisdictions will be looking on with interest to see the results of the evaluation. We look forward to releasing the evaluation once complete.

**ENDS**

### Statement Ends

Media contact:

Claire Johnston      T (02) 6205 0022      M       E [ClaireV.Johnston@act.gov.au](mailto:ClaireV.Johnston@act.gov.au)

### ACT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Phone (02) 6205 0051

[fitzharris@act.gov.au](mailto:fitzharris@act.gov.au)

<image011.png>@MeeganFitzharrisMLA      <image012.png> MeeganFitzharrisMLA      <image013.png> meeganfitzmla

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Hospitality | Healing | Stewardship | Respect

Continuing the Mission of the Sisters of the Little Company of Mary

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**Cramond, Sarah (Health)**

---

**From:** Webber, James (Health) on behalf of Health Media  
**Sent:** Monday, 30 April 2018 10:45 AM  
**To:** Johnston, ClaireV  
**Cc:** Pulli, Tracey (Health)  
**Subject:** FW: MEDIA ALERT: Wrap-up of Australia's first pill testing trial [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

FYI

---

**From:** Webber, James (Health) **On Behalf Of** Health Media  
**Sent:** Monday, 30 April 2018 10:41 AM  
**To:** Health Media <HealthMedia@act.gov.au>  
**Subject:** MEDIA ALERT: Wrap-up of Australia's first pill testing trial [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

---



# Media alert

30 April 2018

## Wrap-up of Australia's first pill testing trial

Attention news editors and chiefs of staff

Not for broadcast or distribution

Opportunity to interview:

- ACT Chief Health Officer Dr Paul Kelly.
- ED Specialist and STA SAFE representative Dr David Caldicott.
- Chief Police Officer for the ACT Assistant Commissioner Justine Saunders.

**WHAT:** Wrap-up of Australia's first pill testing trial

**DATE:** Monday 30 April 2018

**TIME:** 12pm

**WHERE:** Foyer of 6 Bowes, Woden ACT

Media contact: M 0403 344 080    E [healthmedia@act.gov.au](mailto:healthmedia@act.gov.au)

**Cramond, Sarah (Health)**

---

**From:** Johnston, ClaireV  
**Sent:** Monday, 30 April 2018 10:48 AM  
**To:** Health Media  
**Cc:** Pulli, Tracey (Health)  
**Subject:** Re: Pill testing statement [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

**Categories:** James

Great thanks. I'll clear this with the Minister after our meeting at 11:30ish.

Sent from my iPhone

On 30 Apr 2018, at 10:47 am, Health Media <[HealthMedia@act.gov.au](mailto:HealthMedia@act.gov.au)> wrote:

Sorry one more bit - [REDACTED] requested we refer to them as ACT Policing

I've made the change below.

Cheers,  
James

**From:** Webber, James (Health) On Behalf Of Health Media  
**Sent:** Monday, 30 April 2018 10:40 AM  
**To:** Johnston, ClaireV <[ClaireV.Johnston@act.gov.au](mailto:ClaireV.Johnston@act.gov.au)>; Health Media <[HealthMedia@act.gov.au](mailto:HealthMedia@act.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** Pulli, Tracey (Health) <[Tracey.Pulli@act.gov.au](mailto:Tracey.Pulli@act.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: Pill testing statement [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

STA SAFE have confirmed they are happy with this. I've just fixed a minor typo in the third line.

Media alert for 12pm standup is forthcoming soon.

Cheers,  
James

**From:** Johnston, ClaireV  
**Sent:** Monday, 30 April 2018 9:17 AM  
**To:** Health Media <[HealthMedia@act.gov.au](mailto:HealthMedia@act.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** Pulli, Tracey (Health) <[Tracey.Pulli@act.gov.au](mailto:Tracey.Pulli@act.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Re: Pill testing statement [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Thanks James. Is STA SAFE ok with this statement?

Sent from my iPhone

On 30 Apr 2018, at 9:13 am, Health Media <[HealthMedia@act.gov.au](mailto:HealthMedia@act.gov.au)> wrote:

Hi Claire

Please see below a statement on pill testing based on reports from STA-SAFE and ACT Ambulance Service and approved by the CHO.

We're looking at putting together a standup with Health, Police, Ambulance and STA-SAFE to cover all media interest in one go today. Please let us know if that sounds OK.

Kind regards,  
James

**James Webber**  
Senior Communication Officer  
Strategic Communications and Media | ACT Health

P | 6207 5841 M | [REDACTED]  
E | [james.webber@act.gov.au](mailto:james.webber@act.gov.au)  
URL | [www.health.act.gov.au](http://www.health.act.gov.au)

<image010.png>

## **MEEGAN FITZHARRIS MLA**

Minister for Health and Wellbeing  
Minister for Transport and City Services  
Minister for Higher Education, Training and Research  
Member for Yerrabi

30

### **Australia's first pill testing trial a success**

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We understand from STA-SAFE that approximately 130 patrons used the facility with around 85 tests conducted.

Of the items where an illicit substance was detected, most were MDMA. Of particular concern were two items detected for the first time in the ACT. One item was believed to be a novel NBOME with psycho-stimulant and hallucinogenic properties. The other was n-ethylpentylone, a cathinone implicated in fatalities overseas. Information has been shared with ACT Policing and the Chief Health Officer.

What these results show is that there is a demand for this service at events such as music festivals.

It is dangerous to take illicit substances and our message to the community and young people remains: 'Don't take drugs'. This was the clear message given to patrons who attended the pill testing facility on the day.

The ACT Government would like to thank festival organisers Cattleyard Promotions for their cooperation and acknowledge that by allowing the trial to take place, they had the best interests of their patrons at heart.

We would also like to acknowledge the STA-SAFE consortium for successfully carrying out the trial.

ACT Health will now work with STA-SAFE to evaluate the trial. This will assist us to better understand how testing may help reduce the harms of illicit drug use at festivals and will inform our next steps and future policy.

As the first trial to be conducted in Australia, we know that other jurisdictions will be looking on with interest to see the results of the evaluation. We look forward to releasing the evaluation once complete.

**ENDS**

**Statement Ends**

**Media contact:**

Claire Johnston    T (02) 6205 0022    M [REDACTED]    E [ClaireV.Johnston@act.gov.au](mailto:ClaireV.Johnston@act.gov.au)

**ACT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

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<image011.png>@MeeganFitzharrisMLA    <image012.png> MeeganFitzharrisMLA    <image013.png> meeganfit

**Cramond, Sarah (Health)**

---

**From:** ACT Government Executive Media  
**Sent:** Monday, 30 April 2018 3:03 PM  
**Subject:** FITZHARRIS MEDIA RELEASE - Australia's first pill testing trial a success  
**Attachments:** image001.png; image002.png; image003.png; image004.png

MEEGAN FITZHARRIS MLA

Minister for Health and Wellbeing  
Minister for Transport and City Services Minister for Higher Education, Training and Research

Member for Yerrabi

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“ACT Health will now work with STA-SAFE to evaluate the trial. This will assist to better understand how pill testing may help reduce the harms of illicit drug use at festivals and will inform next steps and future drug policy.

“As the first trial to be conducted in Australia, I know that other jurisdictions will be looking on with interest to see the results of the evaluation. We look forward to releasing the evaluation once complete,” Minister Fitzharris said.

Statement Ends

Media contact:

Claire Johnston T (02) 6205 0022  
<mailto:ClaireV.Johnston@act.gov.au>

M

E ClaireV.Johnston@act.gov.au

ACT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Phone (02) 6205 0051

[fitzharris@act.gov.au](mailto:fitzharris@act.gov.au) <<mailto:fitzharris@act.gov.au>>

[@MeeganFitzharrisMLA](#) [MeeganFitzharrisMLA](#) [meeganfitzmla](#)



# Media release

## MEEGAN FITZHARRIS MLA

Minister for Health and Wellbeing  
Minister for Transport and City Services  
Minister for Higher Education, Training and Research

Member for Yerrabi

30 April 2018

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“What these results show is that there is a demand for this service at events such as music festivals.

---

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“I’d like to thank festival organisers Cattleyard Promotions for their cooperation and acknowledge that by allowing the trial to take place, they had the best interests of their patrons at heart.

“I would also like to acknowledge the STA-SAFE consortium for successfully carrying out the trial.

“ACT Health will now work with STA-SAFE to evaluate the trial. This will assist to better understand how pill testing may help reduce the harms of illicit drug use at festivals and will inform next steps and future drug policy.

“As the first trial to be conducted in Australia, I know that other jurisdictions will be looking on with interest to see the results of the evaluation. We look forward to releasing the evaluation once complete,” Minister Fitzharris said.

#### Statement Ends

#### Media contact:

**Claire Johnston**      T (02) 6205 0022      M [REDACTED]      E [ClaireV.Johnston@act.gov.au](mailto:ClaireV.Johnston@act.gov.au)

#### ACT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Phone (02) 6205 0051

[fitzharris@act.gov.au](mailto:fitzharris@act.gov.au)

 [@MeeganFitzharrisMLA](https://twitter.com/MeeganFitzharrisMLA)

 [MeeganFitzharrisMLA](https://www.facebook.com/MeeganFitzharrisMLA)

 [meeganfitzmla](https://www.instagram.com/meeganfitzmla)

**Cramond, Sarah (Health)**

---

**From:** Attridge, Vanessa  
**Sent:** Monday, 30 April 2018 3:06 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]@cattleyard.com'  
**Cc:** Harper, Emily (Health)  
**Subject:** FW: FITZHARRIS MEDIA RELEASE - Australia's first pill testing trial a success  
 [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Please see below media release from the ACT Government regarding the successful pill testing trial at GtM.

Kind regards,

Vanessa

---



## Media release

### **MEEGAN FITZHARRIS** MLA

Minister for Health and Wellbeing  
 Minister for Transport and City Services  
 Minister for Higher Education, Training and Research

Member for Yerrabi

---

30 April 2018

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"As the first trial to be conducted in Australia, I know that other jurisdictions will be looking on with interest to see the results of the evaluation. We look forward to releasing the evaluation once complete," Minister Fitzharris said.

**Statement Ends**

**Media contact:**

Claire Johnston    T (02) 6205 0022    M [REDACTED]    E [ClaireV.Johnston@act.gov.au](mailto:ClaireV.Johnston@act.gov.au)

**ACT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

Phone (02) 6205 0051

[fitzharris@act.gov.au](mailto:fitzharris@act.gov.au)

 @MeeganFitzharrisMLA

 MeeganFitzharrisMLA

 meeganfitzmla

**Cramond, Sarah (Health)**

**From:** Attridge, Vanessa  
**Sent:** Monday, 30 April 2018 3:08 PM  
**To:** Harper, Emily (Health); Kelly, Paul (Health)  
**Cc:** ACT Health DLO  
**Subject:** FW: FITZHARRIS MEDIA RELEASE - Australia's first pill testing trial a success [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

FYI ☺

**From:** ACT Government Executive Media  
**Sent:** Monday, 30 April 2018 3:03 PM  
**Subject:** FITZHARRIS MEDIA RELEASE - Australia's first pill testing trial a success



# Media release

## **MEEGAN FITZHARRIS** MLA

Minister for Health and Wellbeing  
 Minister for Transport and City Services  
 Minister for Higher Education, Training and Research  
 Member for Yerrabi

30 April 2018

### **Australia's first pill testing trial a success**

The pill testing trial conducted by independent consortium STA-SAFE at Groovin the Moo yesterday was successful and well attended, with approximately 130 patrons using the new service.

"This was the first pill testing trial to be carried out in Australia and enabled people who decided to take drugs at the festival to make more informed choices. Pill testing analyses the contents of drugs and can help individuals avoid taking unknown and potentially harmful substances," said Minister for Health and Wellbeing Meegan Fitzharris.

"I understand from STA-SAFE that approximately 130 patrons used the facility with around 85 tests conducted."

Of the items where an illicit substance was detected, most were MDMA. Of particular concern were two items detected for the first time in the ACT. One item was believed to be a novel NBOMe with psycho-stimulant and hallucinogenic properties. The other was n-ethylpentylone, a cathinone implicated in fatalities overseas. This information has been shared with ACT Policing and the Chief Health Officer.

"What these results show is that there is a demand for this service at events such as music festivals.

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 meeganfitzmla





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MeeganFitzharrisMLA



meeganfitzmla

**Cramond, Sarah (Health)**

---

**From:** Attridge, Vanessa  
**Sent:** Monday, 30 April 2018 4:08 PM  
**To:** Harper, Emily (Health)  
**Subject:** Re: FITZHARRIS MEDIA RELEASE - Australia's first pill testing trial a success  
 [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Thanks Emily, thanks for all your help on this too.

Vanessa Attridge

On 30 Apr 2018, at 3:07 pm, Harper, Emily (Health) <[Emily.Harper@act.gov.au](mailto:Emily.Harper@act.gov.au)> wrote:

Thanks Nessa – what a fantastic outcome!

Please also let me know if you or the Minister require anything additional prior to tomorrow's DAC workshop.

Cheers,

*Emily Harper*

Executive Director, Health Improvement Branch  
 Population Health Protection and Prevention | ACT Health  
 PH 6205 2245 | MOB [REDACTED] FAX 6205 1884  
 2-6 Bowes Street, PHILLIP ACT 2606 | GPO Box 825, Canberra City ACT 2601  
 E [emily.harper@act.gov.au](mailto:emily.harper@act.gov.au)  
 <image005.jpg>

**From:** Attridge, Vanessa  
**Sent:** Monday, 30 April 2018 3:06 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]@cattleyard.com! [REDACTED]@cattleyard.com>  
**Cc:** Harper, Emily (Health) <[Emily.Harper@act.gov.au](mailto:Emily.Harper@act.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** FW: FITZHARRIS MEDIA RELEASE - Australia's first pill testing trial a success  
 [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Please see below media release from the ACT Government regarding the successful pill testing trial at GtM.

Kind regards,

Vanessa

<image006.png>

**MEEGAN FITZHARRIS** MLA  
 Minister for Health and Wellbeing  
 Minister for Transport and City Services  
 Minister for Higher Education, Training and Research

Member for Yerrabi

30 April 20

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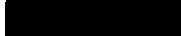
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### ACT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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<image007.png>@MeeganFitzharrisMLA      <image008.png> MeeganFitzharrisMLA      <image009.png> meeganfitzmla

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: ACT Government Executive Media <[ACTGovernmentExecutiveMedia@act.gov.au](mailto:ACTGovernmentExecutiveMedia@act.gov.au)>

To:

Cc:

Bcc:

Date: Mon, 30 Apr 2018 05:02:31 +0000

Subject: FITZHARRIS MEDIA RELEASE - Australia's first pill testing trial a success



## Media release

### **MEEGAN FITZHARRIS** MLA

Minister for Health and Wellbeing  
Minister for Transport and City Services  
Minister for Higher Education, Training and Research

Member for Yerrabi

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#### **Media contact:**

**Claire Johnston**

**T (02) 6205 0022**

**M** 

**E [ClaireV.Johnston@act.gov.au](mailto:ClaireV.Johnston@act.gov.au)**

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@MeeganFitzharrisMLA



MeeganFitzharrisMLA



meeganfitzmla

**Cramond, Sarah (Health)**

---

**From:** Jean, David (Health)  
**Sent:** Monday, 30 April 2018 7:28 AM  
**To:** Kelly, Paul (Health)  
**Cc:** Health Media  
**Subject:** Re: Release for Tomorrow

MO very happy for him to do media.

Sent from my iPhone

On 30 Apr 2018, at 7:13 am, Kelly, Paul (Health) <Paul.Kelly@act.gov.au> wrote:

Hi David,

██████████ just texted me asking if Ok for him to do media?

Please check with Mins Office, my advice is just let him talk.

Paul

On Apr 30, 2018, at 6:55 AM, Health Media <HealthMedia@act.gov.au> wrote:

Thanks Paul. Three people taken by ambulance to hospital for intoxication (drugs and or alcohol) from GTM last night FYI.

Sent from ACT Health oncall  
iPhone

On 29 Apr 2018, at 11:55 pm, Kelly, Paul (Health) <Paul.Kelly@act.gov.au> wrote:

FYI.

This is ██████████ interpretation of a request to see any media statement from STA SAFE before it went out. I do not think it is up to ACT gov/ACT Health or Cattleyard to give permission at this stage.

Nothing from ██████████ yet, I'll check again in the morning before 7. Talk then.

Paul

Begin forwarded message:



From: [REDACTED]@3vc.com.au>  
Date: April 29, 2018 at 11:12:14 PM GMT+10  
To: "Paul Kelly " <Paul.Kelly@act.gov.au>  
Subject: Release for Tomorrow

Hi Paul – please see below.

Many thanks again for your support

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

3V Consulting Services

M: [REDACTED]

E: [REDACTED]

ACT Health and Minister are doing media tomorrow and are supportive of us putting out a statement about the trial.

So here is draft for comments:

On behalf of our STA-SAFE consortium partners, Harm Reduction Australia would like to advise that the first pill testing trial ever to be held in Australia took place in Canberra on Sunday the 29th of April.

With the support of the ACT Government, including ACT Health & ACT Police, as well as the University of Canberra (as the landowner on which the festival was held) and the Groovin the Moo Festival promoters, the STA-SAFE Consortium was able to successfully deliver a pill testing trial at the festival.

The service was very well received by festival goers and the trial will provide a range of information which will be provided to key stakeholders in the ACT.

The STA-SAFE consortium members are:

Studio 10 are looking at covering the topic 'Pill Testing' at 0930 tomorrow morning.

We would love to interview Dr Paul Kelly. Will he be available then?

I have cc'd our [REDACTED]  
and our [REDACTED]

Please let us know as soon as you have all final details confirmed.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
<image005.jpg>

<image006.jpg>

1 Saunders Street  
Pyrmont Sydney NSW Australia 2009  
t. 02 [REDACTED] m. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]@networkten.com.au  
[tenplay.com.au](http://tenplay.com.au)

Network Ten Pty Ltd ABN 91 052 515 250  
Disclaimer This e-mail (including all attachments) is intended solely for the named addressee. If you receive it in error, please let us know by reply e-mail, delete it from your system and destroy the copies. This e-mail is also subject to copyright. No part of it should be reproduced, adapted or transmitted without the written consent of the copyright owner. E-mails may be interfered with, may contain computer viruses or other defects and may not be successfully replicated on other systems. We give no warranties in relation to these matters. If you have any doubts about the authenticity of an e-mail purportedly sent by us, please contact us immediately.

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**Cramond, Sarah (Health)**

---

**From:** [REDACTED]@cattleyard.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 1 May 2018 11:52 AM  
**To:** Attridge, Vanessa  
**Cc:** Harper, Emily (Health)  
**Subject:** Re: FITZHARRIS MEDIA RELEASE - Australia's first pill testing trial-a success [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi Vanessa and Emily,

Please see below statement that we have provided to the media.

Cheers,

[REDACTED]

*Cattleyard Promotions is pleased to have recently facilitated the first pill testing trial in Australia, on Sunday 29 April at Groovin the Moo, Canberra.*

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*It did take time, but ensured the trial was facilitated to the best of everyone's ability. We would like to thank ACT Health, the STA-SAFE Consortium, ACT Police, ACT Ambulance and all other stakeholders for working together, in order to proceed with the trial.*

*We look forward to working with everyone again for Groovin the Moo, Canberra 2019 and are more than willing to share our experiences with other promoters in the ACT to help them facilitate similar operations.*



[REDACTED]  
 [REDACTED]  
 [REDACTED]@cattleyard.com

[cattleyard.com](http://cattleyard.com) | [gtm.net.au](http://gtm.net.au) | [theplot.co](http://theplot.co)  
 Suite 4/ 50 Reservoir St  
 Surry Hills, NSW 2010

On 30 Apr 2018, at 3:05 pm, Attridge, Vanessa <[VanessaS.Attridge@act.gov.au](mailto:VanessaS.Attridge@act.gov.au)> wrote:

Dear [REDACTED]

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Kind regards,

Vanessa

<image001.png>

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Member for Yerrabi

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**Statement Ends**

**Media contact:**

Claire Johnston    T (02) 6205 0022    M     E [ClaireV.Johnston@act.gov.au](mailto:ClaireV.Johnston@act.gov.au)

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<image002.png>@MeeganFitzharrisMLA    <image003.png> MeeganFitzharrisMLA    <image004.png> meeganfitzmla

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**Cramond, Sarah (Health)**

---

**From:** Attridge, Vanessa  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 1 May 2018 2:25 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Harper, Emily (Health)  
**Subject:** RE: FITZHARRIS MEDIA RELEASE - Australia's first pill testing trial a success [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi,

Thanks very much [REDACTED] this is a great statement and we welcome your support.

Thanks again for all your help.

All the best,

Nessa

**From:** [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]@cattleyard.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 1 May 2018 11:52 AM  
**To:** Attridge, Vanessa <VanessaS.Attridge@act.gov.au>  
**Cc:** Harper, Emily (Health) <Emily.Harper@act.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Re: FITZHARRIS MEDIA RELEASE - Australia's first pill testing trial a success [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

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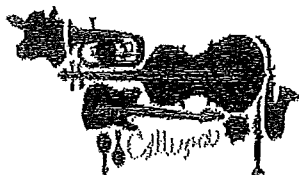
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cattleyard.com | gtm.net.au | theplot.co  
 Suite 4/ 50 Reservoir St  
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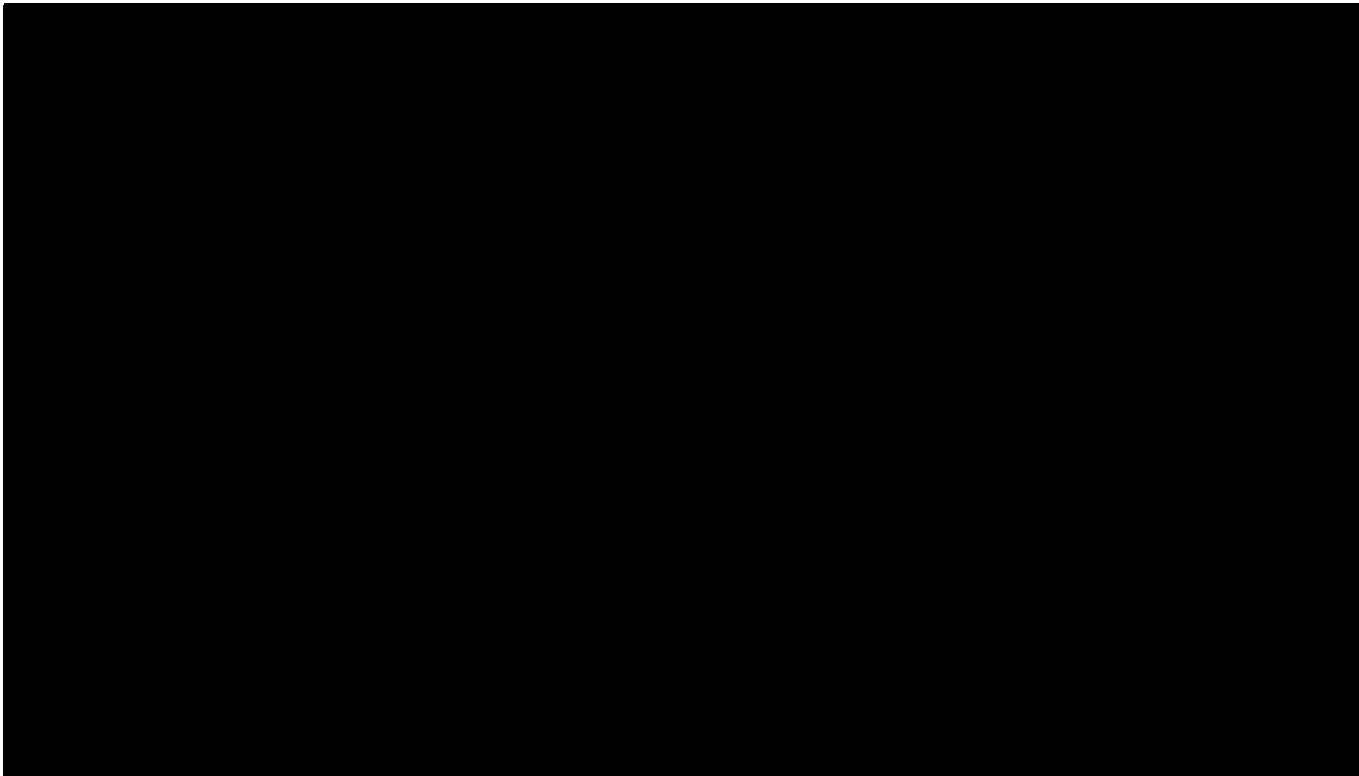
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**From:** Attridge, Vanessa  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 1 May 2018 2:25 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@cattleyard.com>  
**Cc:** Harper, Emily (Health) <Emily.Harper@act.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: FITZHARRIS MEDIA RELEASE - Australia's first pill testing trial a success [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi,

Thanks very much [REDACTED] this is a great statement and we welcome your support.

Thanks again for all your help.

All the best,

Nessa

**From:** [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]@cattleyard.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 1 May 2018 11:52 AM  
**To:** Attridge, Vanessa <VanessaS.Attridge@act.gov.au>  
**Cc:** Harper, Emily (Health) <Emily.Harper@act.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Re: FITZHARRIS MEDIA RELEASE - Australia's first pill testing trial a success [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi Vanessa and Emily,

Please see below statement that we have provided to the media.

Cheers,

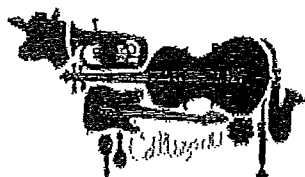
[REDACTED]

*Cattleyard Promotions is pleased to have recently facilitated the first pill testing trial in Australia, on Sunday 29 April at Groovin the Moo, Canberra.*

*Cattleyard's priority throughout the consultation process with stakeholders was the safety and welfare of our patrons, along with ensuring clarity over potential legal ramifications.*

*It did take time, but ensured the trial was facilitated to the best of everyone's ability. We would like to thank ACT Health, the STA-SAFE Consortium, ACT Police, ACT Ambulance and all other stakeholders for working together, in order to proceed with the trial.*

*We look forward to working with everyone again for Groovin the Moo, Canberra 2019 and are more than willing to share our experiences with other promoters in the ACT to help them facilitate similar operations.*



██████████@cattleyard.com

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Suite 4/ 50 Reservoir St  
Surry Hills, NSW 2010

On 30 Apr 2018, at 3:05 pm, Attridge, Vanessa <[VanessaS.Attridge@act.gov.au](mailto:VanessaS.Attridge@act.gov.au)> wrote:

Dear ██████████

Please see below media release from the ACT Government regarding the successful pill testing trial at GtM.

Kind regards,

Vanessa

<image001.png>

**MEEGAN FITZHARRIS** MLA

Minister for Health and Wellbeing

Minister for Transport and City Services

Minister for Higher Education, Training and Research

Member for Yerrabi

30 April 20

## Australia's first pill testing trial a success

The pill testing trial conducted by independent consortium STA-SAFE at Groovin the Moo yesterday was successful and well attended, with approximately 130 patrons using the new service.

"This was the first pill testing trial to be carried out in Australia and enabled people who decided to take drugs at the festival to make more informed choices. Pill testing analyses the contents of drugs and can help individuals avoid taking unknown and potentially harmful substances," said Minister for Health and Wellbeing Meegan Fitzharris.

"I understand from STA-SAFE that approximately 130 patrons used the facility with around 85 tests conducted."

Of the items where an illicit substance was detected, most were MDMA. Of particular concern were two items detected for the first time in the ACT. One item was believed to be a novel NBOMe with psycho-stimulant and hallucinogenic properties. The other was n-ethylpentylone, a cathinone implicated in fatalities overseas. This information has been shared with ACT Policing and the Chief Health Officer.

"What these results show is that there is a demand for this service at events such as music festivals.

"It is dangerous to take illicit substances and the government's message to the community and young people remains: 'don't do drugs'. This was the clear message given to patrons who attended the pill testing facility on the day.

"I'd like to thank festival organisers Cattleyard Promotions for their cooperation and acknowledge that by allowing the trial to take place, they had the best interests of their patrons at heart.

"I would also like to acknowledge the STA-SAFE consortium for successfully carrying out the trial.

"ACT Health will now work with STA-SAFE to evaluate the trial. This will assist to better understand how pill testing may help reduce the harms of illicit drug use at festivals and will inform next steps and future drug policy.

"As the first trial to be conducted in Australia, I know that other jurisdictions will be looking on with interest to see the results of the evaluation. We look forward to releasing the evaluation once complete," Minister Fitzharris said.

### Statement Ends

#### Media contact:

Claire Johnston    T (02) 6205 0022    M     E [ClaireV.Johnston@act.gov.au](mailto:ClaireV.Johnston@act.gov.au)

### ACT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Phone (02) 6205 0051

[fitzharris@act.gov.au](mailto:fitzharris@act.gov.au)

<image002.png>@MeeganFitzharrisMLA    <image003.png> MeeganFitzharrisMLA    <image004.png> meeganfitzmla

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**Cramond, Sarah (Health)**

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**From:** Kelly, Paul (Health)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 1 May 2018 1:55 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Attridge, Vanessa; Harper, Emily (Health); McNeill, Laura (Health)  
**Subject:** RE: Pill Testing Trial [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Thanks [REDACTED]

On behalf of my team at ACT Health, and in addition to the email already sent by Nessa Attridge, I would like to express our thanks to Cattleyard as well.

From our perspective, the trial went very well. Of course, there are many lessons which we have learnt along the way and these will be very valuable in any future event.

Good luck with the second half of the 2018 GTM events.

Regards,


Paul

***Dr Paul Kelly***

ACT Chief Health Officer & Deputy Director-General |

Population Health | ACT Health Directorate

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