



MEDIA RELEASE

Pill Testing Program Blocked

Thursday 12th October 2017

On behalf of our STA-SAFE consortium partners, Harm Reduction Australia expresses its shock and extreme disappointment at the announcement that its pilot pill testing service will not proceed in Canberra next month as planned.

The STA-SAFE Consortium was advised yesterday (Wed 11th Oct) by the Spilt Milk promoter of some additional documentation on the pill testing service that was required for National Capital Authority approval of the festival as a whole.

The STA-SAFE Consortium were then advised today that despite being in the process of the finalising all the documentation requested it was now too late for consideration – a mere 24 hours later.

We wish to be clear that we do not hold those involved in the organisation, delivery or promotion of the Spilt Milk Festival responsible for the decision to not permit pill testing to occur.

The comments made by ACT Shadow Minister for Health, Vicki Dunne, that the Spilt Milk Festival is on Commonwealth land and that the Commonwealth Government will ensure that pill testing will not occur are telling.

The STA-SAFE Consortium wishes to place on the record that the evidence, the documentation, the volunteers, the funding, the equipment and the training were all either in place or being put in place to pilot this significant public health initiative.

However, the consortium will not be deterred by this setback and will continue to work to deliver evidence based harm reduction programs in the ACT. In particular, the STA-SAFE Consortium would like to thank the ACT Government for their continued support and commitment to working with us to pilot pill testing and we look forward to delivering on this promise in coming months.

The STA-SAFE consortium members are:

- ❖ Australian Drug Observatory (Dr David Caldicott)
- ❖ Noffs Foundation (Det. Supt. (ret.) Frank Hansen, Prof Toni Makkai & Matt Noffs)
- ❖ DanceWize (Stephanie Tzanetis – Harm Reduction Victoria)
- ❖ Students for Sensible Drug Policies (Penny Hill)
- ❖ Harm Reduction Australia (Gino Vumbaca)

For further information, please contact:

Mr Gino Vumbaca
Dr David Caldicott
Mr Matt Noffs

0408-244-552
0478 906 634
0403 185 335



www.harmreductionaustralia.org.au

Australia's first national harm reduction organisation for individuals committed to reducing the health, social and economic harms potentially associated with drug use