



# MEDIA RELEASE

## Australian Pill Testing Pilot Report Released

20<sup>th</sup> June 2018

On behalf of our STA-SAFE consortium partners, Harm Reduction Australia would like to advise that the report on the first officially sanctioned pill testing trial to be held in Australia that took place in Canberra is now available – [Pill Testing Report](#)

With the support of the ACT Government, including ACT Health & ACT Police, as well as the University of Canberra (where the festival was held) and the Groovin the Moo (GTM) Festival promoters (Cattleyard), the STA-SAFE Consortium was able to successfully deliver a pill testing pilot at the GTM Festival on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2018.

The service was very well received by festival goers and the pilot provided a very important range of information to be provided to key stakeholders in the ACT.

### **The recommendations & future directions from the pill testing pilot are as follows:**

1. That further front-of-house pill testing, as part of a commitment to harm reduction services, be supported in the ACT.
2. That appropriately sized and signed facilities for front-of-house pill testing be negotiated with all relevant stakeholders in a timely manner prior to events.
3. That Australian state and territory governments engage in discussions with their relevant ACT counterparts on the introduction of medical and peer based front of house pill testing services.
4. That Australian state and territory governments utilise the significant practical and strategic knowledge of the STA-SAFE consortium in their deliberations on the introduction of pill testing.
5. That the federal government take a national leadership role in advancing a mixed-model approach to pill testing as a harm reduction service across Australia, where front-of-house testing services are delivered on site at music events and festivals, as well as at fixed locations, such as participating public health, drug and alcohol and needle and syringe programs.
6. That all levels of government work together with the STA-SAFE consortium to establish a national pill testing evaluation framework, as well as an ongoing public early warning system (EWS) of all drug test results.

The STA-SAFE consortium members are:

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

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[www.harmreductionaustralia.org.au](http://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