



22 July 2018

Dear Prime Minister

I am writing to you on behalf of the Safety Testing Advisory Service At Festivals and Events (STA-SAFE) Consortium to bring to your attention the report we recently released on the first sanctioned pilot pill testing program in Australia.

The full report can be accessed at: [Pill-Testing-Pilot-ACT-June-2018-Final-Report.pdf](#)

As you may be aware, with the support of the ACT Government, including ACT Health and ACT Police, as well as the University of Canberra (the site where the festival was held), and the *Groovin the Moo* (GTM) festival promoters (Cattleyard), the STA-SAFE Consortium was able to deliver a pill testing pilot at the GTM Festival on 29th April 2018.

The pilot was acknowledged as overwhelmingly successful by key stakeholders and the service was very well received by festival patrons. In addition, the pilot provided an important range of data and other information for our key stakeholders in the ACT.

The recommendations and future directions from the pill testing pilot were 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 public health 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 site locations, such as participating relevant health organisations, alcohol and other drug services 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.

Accordingly, representatives of the STA-SAFE Consortium, which is comprised of Harm Reduction Australia, the Australian Drug Observatory (based at the Australian National University) the Noffs Foundation, DanceWize (Harm Reduction Victoria), and Students for Sensible Drug Policy Australia, would like to meet with you and relevant Ministerial and Departmental officials to discuss these recommendations with a view to conducting a pilot pill testing program in your jurisdiction.

Please do not hesitate to contact me on the number below for any further details or information you may require regarding this correspondence.

Yours sincerely

Mr Gino Vumbaca
President
Harm Reduction Australia
M: 0408-244-552
E: gino@3vc.com.au

cc *Police Minister*
Health Minister
Opposition Leader
Shadow Police & Health Ministers

22 July 2018

Dear Premier

I am writing to you on behalf of the Safety Testing Advisory Service At Festivals and Events (STA-SAFE) Consortium to bring to your attention the report we recently released on the first sanctioned pilot pill testing program in Australia.

The full report can be accessed at: [Pill-Testing-Pilot-ACT-June-2018-Final-Report.pdf](#)

As you may be aware, with the support of the ACT Government, including ACT Health and ACT Police, as well as the University of Canberra (the site where the festival was held), and the *Groovin the Moo* (GTM) festival promoters (Cattleyard), the STA-SAFE Consortium was able to deliver a pill testing pilot at the GTM Festival on 29th April 2018.

The pilot was acknowledged as overwhelmingly successful by key stakeholders and the service was very well received by festival patrons. In addition, the pilot provided an important range of data and other information for our key stakeholders in the ACT.

The recommendations and future directions from the pill testing pilot were as follows:

7. That further front-of-house pill testing, as part of a commitment to harm reduction services, be supported in the ACT.
8. 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.
9. That Australian state and territory governments engage in discussions with their relevant ACT counterparts on the introduction of public health and peer based front-of-house pill testing services.
10. 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.
11. 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 site locations, such as participating relevant health organisations, alcohol and other drug services and needle and syringe programs.

12. 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.

Accordingly, representatives of the STA-SAFE Consortium, which is comprised of Harm Reduction Australia, the Australian Drug Observatory (based at the Australian National University) the Noffs Foundation, DanceWize (Harm Reduction Victoria), and Students for Sensible Drug Policy Australia, would like to meet with you and relevant Ministerial and Departmental officials to discuss these recommendations with a view to conducting a pilot pill testing program in your jurisdiction.

Please do not hesitate to contact me on the number below for any further details or information you may require regarding this correspondence.

Yours sincerely

Mr Gino Vumbaca
President
Harm Reduction Australia
M: 0408-244-552
E: gino@3vc.com.au

cc *Police Minister*
Health Minister
Opposition Leader
Shadow Police & Health Ministers

22 July 2018

Dear Chief Minister

I am writing to you on behalf of the Safety Testing Advisory Service At Festivals and Events (STA-SAFE) Consortium to bring to your attention the report we recently released on the first sanctioned pilot pill testing program in Australia.

The full report can be accessed at: [Pill-Testing-Pilot-ACT-June-2018-Final-Report.pdf](#)

As you may be aware, with the support of the ACT Government, including ACT Health and ACT Police, as well as the University of Canberra (the site where the festival was held), and the *Groovin the Moo* (GTM) festival promoters (Cattleyard), the STA-SAFE Consortium was able to deliver a pill testing pilot at the GTM Festival on 29th April 2018.

The pilot was acknowledged as overwhelmingly successful by key stakeholders and the service was very well received by festival patrons. In addition, the pilot provided an important range of data and other information for our key stakeholders in the ACT.

The recommendations and future directions from the pill testing pilot were as follows:

13. That further front-of-house pill testing, as part of a commitment to harm reduction services, be supported in the ACT.
14. 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.
15. That Australian state and territory governments engage in discussions with their relevant ACT counterparts on the introduction of public health and peer based front-of-house pill testing services.
16. 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.
17. 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 site locations, such as participating relevant health organisations, alcohol and other drug services and needle and syringe programs.

18. 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.

Accordingly, representatives of the STA-SAFE Consortium, which is comprised of Harm Reduction Australia, the Australian Drug Observatory (based at the Australian National University) the Noffs Foundation, DanceWize (Harm Reduction Victoria), and Students for Sensible Drug Policy Australia, would like to meet with you and relevant Ministerial and Departmental officials to discuss these recommendations with a view to conducting a pilot pill testing program in your jurisdiction.

Please do not hesitate to contact me on the number below for any further details or information you may require regarding this correspondence.

Yours sincerely

Mr Gino Vumbaca
President
Harm Reduction Australia
M: 0408-244-552
E: gino@3vc.com.au

cc *Police Minister*
Health Minister
Opposition Leader
Shadow Police & Health Ministers