

MEDIA RELEASE

Pill Testing Australia welcomes meetings with the Tasmanian Government

Tuesday, 3 September 2019

The Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drugs Council of Tasmania will be facilitating discussions between Pill Testing Australia and the Tasmanian Government over the next two days.

Gino Vumbaca, President of Harm Reduction Australia and co-founder of Pill Testing Australia will be in Hobart and attending meetings, including a briefing with the Premier, the Minister for Health, the Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing and the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management on Thursday afternoon.

ATDC chief executive Alison Lai said she was looking forward to the discussions as an opportunity to speak directly to the Premier and his parliamentary team.

"I recently had the opportunity to directly brief Minister Jeremy Rockliff and answer his questions on how drug checking services operates as a health service, and this was a highly productive discussion," Ms Lai said.

"It will be incredibly beneficial to have all the relevant Ministers in the room alongside the Premier to receive information direct from Pill Testing Australia.

"Tasmania did not have a parliamentary representative at the drug checking demonstration provided by the ACT Government in April this year, so we're grateful for opportunities like this, particularly given the current level of national attention drug checking is receiving."

Mr Vumbaca said that he would focus on explaining how drug checking services operate, and the evidence supporting the outcomes it could provide for Tasmania.

"For many, using drug checking services will be the first opportunity for them to talk to a health professional about their drug use and in some cases will lead to them deciding not to consume the drug or moderate their behavior to reduce the likelihood of harm," Mr Vumbaca said.

Addressing the ongoing debate about drug checking, Mr Vumbaca said that the biggest challenge to getting a trial in Tasmania was the ongoing misunderstandings about what drug checking is and how it works.

"Drug checking services never condones drug use, and it reduces the potential for tragic outcomes and harms for the people taking risks," he said.

"It is a health and medical service, and as members of the community and parents we should always be seeking to make sure that young people are kept safe and return home after a night out, and that is our simple goal at Pill Testing Australia."

Speaker of the Tasmanian House of Assembly Sue Hickey will also host representatives from the Tasmanian Greens, the Tasmanian Labor Party and the Department of Health for a briefing on Wednesday, 4 September.

[ENDS]



No Harm, No Discrimination

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Media Opportunity

Gino will be available for interview on Wednesday, 4 September at 2.30pm on Parliament Lawns.

Media Contact: Alison Lai, CEO – 0450 517 017

Click [here](#) to view Pill Testing Australia’s recently launched community service announcement.

Pill Testing Australia’s fact-sheet is included with this media release.

Who are the ATDC? The Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drugs Council of Tasmania is the peak body representing and supporting community organisations, and the people they assist, to reduce alcohol, tobacco and other drug related harm for all Tasmanians.

Our vision is a Tasmania without alcohol, tobacco or other drug related harm or discrimination.

LANGUAGE MATTERS – Language is powerful, especially when discussing alcohol and other drugs and the people who use them. Stigmatising language reinforces negative stereotypes. “Person-centred” language focuses on the person, not their substance use.

When reporting on people who use alcohol and other drugs....	
Try this 👍	Not this 👎
Substance use, non-prescribed use	Abuse, misuse, problem use, non-compliant use
Person who uses drugs	Drug user, drug abuser
Person with a dependence on....	Addict, junkie, druggie, alcoholic
Person experiencing drug dependence	Suffering from addiction, has a drug habit
Person who has stopped using drugs	Clean, sober, drug-free
Person with lived experience of drug dependence	Ex-addict, former addict, used to be a...
Please see the attached Language matters resource attached or at: www.nada.org.au/resources/language-matters/	



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