



Harm Reduction Victoria welcomes drug checking trial!

As Victoria's peer-based harm reduction organisation for people who use drugs, Harm Reduction Victoria welcomes the Allan Government's [announcement of a drug checking trial over the next 18 months](#).

Drug checking, or "pill testing", empowers people to make informed decisions about their drug use. Victoria will join over 31 jurisdictions worldwide, including the ACT and QLD, in implementing this life-saving, evidence-based reform.

We commend the Allan Government for listening to the evidence, experts, and most of all the wider community! We note the commitment to both a fixed site and mobile outreach service, and for planning to make this "important health service" permanent beyond the 18-month implementation period.

Earlier this year, we collaborated with the Victorian Alcohol & Other Drug Association (VAADA) and a range of stakeholders and community experts on a report titled '[Drug Checking: principles of practice](#)' to offer an optimal model for Victoria. We are pleased to see several key recommendations reflected in the announcement, including the involvement of trained peer workers.

Sione Crawford, CEO of Harm Reduction Victoria, says, "We congratulate the Allan Government on their announcement of a drug checking service for Victoria. We look forward to working with the government on the details, ensuring the service prioritises peer-to-peer education about test results, which the evidence shows is the most effective way to reduce harms and prevent overdoses."

In the context of prohibition, drugs are sourced from an unregulated, underground market, often adulterated with contaminants. Harm Reduction Victoria is committed to addressing the harms of drug prohibition and criminalisation long-term. Meanwhile, in the coming weeks and months we will be doing all that we can to ensure the new drug checking services are safe, accessible, and useful to diverse communities of people who use drugs across Victoria.

Harm Reduction Victoria runs crucial, peer-to-peer programs like DanceWize, which has been operating peer-to-peer event care services at Victorian festivals and events since 1995. Our programs are operated by staff and volunteers who come from the communities they serve, and as such we have unique insights into the health needs of people who use drugs in Victoria.

For further comment, please contact:
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