



For immediate release

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Students support pill testing

The National Union of Students (NUS) supports the calls of young people across Australia to introduce pill testing services at festivals and across the country. We endorse the Students for Sustainable Drug Policy (SSDP) in pushing for drug policy reform towards a harm reduction approach.

While recognising that pill testing is not the silver bullet in preventing all drug related harm, it is a key way to reduce the harm for many young people. Tragic incidents of drug related harm over this summer festival period have shown that a zero tolerance approach and stigmatising drug use is not an effective method to prevent drug related harm.

Student organisations across the country have showed their support for a harm reduction approach. The University of Melbourne Student Union, and Newcastle University Student Association have already rolled out pill testing and drug education programs, with many other student associations looking to follow with similar programs.

“It is appalling that despite all the evidence that shows pill testing does work, the government and other opponents to pill testing refuses to acknowledge that our current approach to drug related harm is not working” said NUS National President, Desiree Cai.

“Students are on board. We want to ensure that our friends and countless other young people who partake in drug use are able to be safe”.

“Students across the country deserve a sensible drug policy which allows them to be safe. Pill testing and drug checking is an evidence based harm reduction method that can help save the lives of students and young people who may be experimenting with drugs” said NUS National Welfare Officer, Adriana Malavisi. “Too many young people have been lost to unsafe substances this year. Implementing these harm reduction policies can have a direct impact on the welfare and safety of our students, and young people have started speaking out in favour if it”

For further comment;

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