

**national association of
people with HIV australia**

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**Re: Regulatory Options for Appropriate Access and Safety Controls for Akyl Nitrates:
Seeking Further Public Feedback.**

Dear Secretary,

I have had the opportunity to examine the joint submission to this call for further submissions from the Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations and the National LGBTI Health Alliance on the proposed Amyl TGA ban. I write to endorse that submission. In addition to this, on behalf of the National Association of People with HIV (NAPWHA), I would add the following comments:

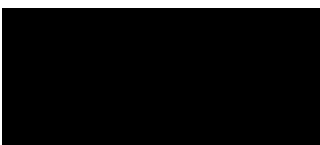
NAPWHA is Australia's peak non-government organisation representing community-based groups of people with HIV. Our vision is of a world where people with HIV live their lives to their full potential, in good health and free from discrimination. We are opposed to any legislation which threatens to add additional burdens—social, medical or legal—on this already marginalised group.

The use of akyl nitrates as a muscle relaxant to make anal sex less painful is beneficial, not just in reducing feelings of discomfort, but also by making the transmission of blood borne viruses such as HIV during sex less likely. In facilitating the relaxation of the anal muscles akyl nitrates reduce sex-related trauma to the delicate skin of the anal canal. This in turn reduces blood-to-blood or blood-to-semen contact. The interim decision to list akyl nitrates in schedule 9 of the Poisons Standard does not take this into account.

Marginalised community members require supportive environments to adopt protective behaviours, both for their own health and for that of their partners. Criminalisation of a niche behaviour with little associated health risk poses a danger far greater than the behaviour itself.

Criminalisation will send these behaviours underground and compromise health education incentives. This proposed amendment threatens Australia's public health investment in HIV prevention, testing and treatment and the broader safety of our community.

Yours faithfully,



Aaron Cogle
Executive Director