

Dear TGA,

I would like to make a submission regarding the proposed scheduling of alkyl nitrites and how that would negatively affect me. I appreciate that you have extended the community consultation period as I wanted to make a submission previously but only heard about it near to the deadline and wasn't confident at the time putting my thoughts into words. As you can appreciate the reasons I use this product is very personal and a little difficult to document in an appropriate way.

I am a 47yo male in a committed and monogamous 15 year relationship. I started using this product soon after I met my current partner as I had developed small anal tears after having sex. I went to my doctor (at a clinic that specialises in LGBTQI health) for treatment and advice as to how be able to cope with the "challenges" presented having sex with my new, well endowed partner. The immediate medical problem was soon healed with reluctant rest and an appropriate topical cream.

When asking for advice around how I could avoid this continuing to happen my doctor told me about the usual strategies of using lots of lube, not rushing things and trying different positions. I asked if there were any prescription or other products available and he said "no, not really, at least none as effective as amyl which you can get from the sex shop". He recommended that I ask for the brand he uses and told me how to administer it safely. He explained the possible risks and side effects that can include loss of erection, head ache and not to drink it or get it on my skin or in my nose (and to wash it thoroughly with water if I did). He also made me aware to not use it with Viagra.

I am pleased to say that this product almost instantly allowed me to have an enjoyable and fulfilling sex life and in 15 years I've not ever had a single negative consequence relating to it. There was a period of 18 months where we lived overseas in a country where amyl wasn't available and it resulted in us again not being able to have comfortable sex. In the end we had a friend mail us some just so we could make sex feasible. If this product was scheduled as proposed I would be once again forced to look online and purchase it from overseas. I realize that would technically be illegal but it would be the only real option I would have. It would also make the scheduling pointless.

If you feel that there are risks that need to be addressed can I suggest that the product is only sold in age appropriate premises like sex shops, tobacconists or if necessary chemists. I can understand that a child proof cap and very clear labeling that they can't be ingested and other health care information would make them safer. I use this product on weekly to fortnightly basis and have never found there to be any addictive qualities. I have read there is some concern it can cause eye problems but that has never been my experience. That said, now that it's something I've been educated and made aware of, I can monitor and seek appropriate medical advice if I ever thought it was something that needed further investigation. I also think you should have actual definitive research that this product does cause a significant problem before banning or scheduling it. From what I can see the ophthalmological concerns all seem to be pretty rare and very circumstantial.

While the accessibility and use of this product may seem inconsequential to you from a regulatory perspective I implore you to consider that many people will be silently and significantly impacted if it becomes unavailable.

Thank you for taking the time to review my submission. I'm happy for it to be published without identifying my name.