

Attn: TGA

RE: Regulatory options for appropriate access and safety controls for alkyl nitrites

To whom it may concern,

I am a recently retired [REDACTED] paramedic [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]. I'd like to express my concern about the proposed re-classification of alkyl nitrites ("poppers") as I do not believe schedule 9 is justified.

In all of my professional experience I have only attended a single poppers-related incident and that involved injuries due to mishandling, not it's consumption. Clear labelling and community education on safe storage and handling practices would have probably avoided this incident. In no way do I see the actual or potential harm of poppers warranting them being classified alongside methamphetamine for example, which has been a factor in hundreds of incidences I have attended.

As a homosexual male I am aware of how popular and widespread the use of poppers is in the LGBTI community. Poppers are an essential part of the sex lives for a large portion of this community. I have no doubt that without a safe and legal alternative, the physical and mental health of many people would be adversely affected.

If the TGA feels that re-classification above of schedule 4 (medicine) is needed, I urge you to consider schedules 5 (Caution) or 6 (Poison) rather than 9 (Prohibited).