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Advisory Committee on Medicines Scheduling
Health Products Regulation - Therapeutic Goods Administration
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Proposed Amendments to the Poisons Standard (Medicines/Chemicals)

The AIDS Action Council (the Council) is writing in support of the submission made by the Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations (AFAO) and the National LGBTI Health Alliance, opposing the interim decision to change the scheduling arrangement for alkyl nitrites.

The Council was formed in 1983 and incorporated in 1986 as part of the community response to the impact of the HIV/AIDS in Australia. Today, we are Canberra's leading community-based organisation for people living with HIV/AIDS, sex workers and sex and gender diverse people. We provide a range of services to our communities, including counselling, support, information and advocacy. As a leading community based organisation within the ACT we are well placed to respond to the scheduling arrangements for alkyl nitrites.

The Council is concerned about the poor quality of evidence in support of this matter, the lack of systemic harm that has been articulated and the capacity for the further criminalisation or already marginalised populations. We urge you to overturn this decision and to engage in greater consultation with communities affected by these processes in the future.

Yours sincerely

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Philippa Moss
Executive Director
11 October 2018