

Dear TGA,

I am writing to you in regards to the proposed changes to the scheduling of amyl nitrites. My name is [REDACTED], I don't have a university degree and I am not a doctor. I am however, an out and proud gay man heavily involved in the gay and fetish leather scene here in Melbourne. I feel the need to address and heavily object to the proposed amendments to the scheduling of certain alkyl nitrites, mainly amyl nitrite for the following reasons.

The TGA states- **The products are generally labelled as "leather cleaner" or "room odourisers" but there is no credible evidence they are actually used for these purposes.**

When I go to my local Fetish Leather Store to buy a Fetish Leather Cleaner, that is exactly what I am purchasing, a Leather Cleaner to clean my Fetish Leather Gear. The product I am purchasing has huge warning signs and instructions all over the labels, one of which states "DO NOT INHALE" along with safety instructions. How much more clear do you want to be? I purchase this product and use as intended, I use as is strictly stated on the bottle, so I really cannot understand such an aggressive approach to "Amyl Leather Cleaner"

This is exactly the same warning labels that come with Turpentine, Spray Paint and most other cleaning products sold on the market today, all are freely available to purchase and all sold and marketed for their intended purpose. The only difference is that this product can be purchased in Adult Shops, mainly Fetish Leather Stores, so it makes sense to be able to buy "Fetish Leather Cleaner" at a "Fetish Leather Store"

The fetish leather scene locally and abroad is growing very quickly and we spend a lot of our hard earned money on chaps, bulldog harnesses, y harnesses, boots, caps etc. The fact is, we also like to have sex in our fetish wear, we party in our fetish wear and sometimes, well most of the time, my gear gets messy with alcohol, saliva and semen stains after a hard night. Regular "off the shelf" leather cleaner discolors and does not remove these stains from my \$900 chaps and I have already gone through 2 pairs in this manner, but, what does work, and works flawlessly, is Leather Cleaner purchased from my local fetish leather store that has "amyl nitrite" in it. It removes semen stains and saliva stains and does not discolour or harm my leather in any way. The types of leather used to make these products is thick bridal leather and it's tough to keep clean and stain free without the use of a good quality Leather Cleaner that contains these types of chemicals you want to criminalise.

There is strong evidence this product, amyl nitrite, is used as a cleaning agent and solvent in both industrial and household applications, these include leather cleaner and as a printed industrial circuit board cleaner to name a few. I, along with many others in the scene can and are willing to testify that we use these products, amyl nitrite, in the manner it is intended to be used, as stated on the bottle and we would be willing to perform a live demonstration to the members to prove the point.

The TGA states- **Alkyl nitrites are sweet-smelling liquids and pose a risk to child safety through cases of accidental ingestion.**

If you have actually smelled the aroma produced by "amyl nitrite" you would be taken back to the disgusting scent of "dirty socks" The product we use smells horrible, I don't know about other brands but "[REDACTED]" is not sweet smelling at all. If this were the case and "accidental ingestion" was an issue, then regulate the suppliers and make them use "child proof caps"

We in the Fetish Leather Scene can certainly understand the TGA's point as far as "misuse" goes and these products have no place in dance halls and night clubs and there should be regulations safe guarding the use of these products in these types of environments, but for

what we use it for, it is effective and is the only product we have found on the market that we can rely on to take care of our Fetish Leather Gear. The fact is, amyl nitrites have a very diverse range of uses including a solvent, a stainless steel cleaner and a very good fetish leather cleaner to name a few. These arguments cannot be ignored and the TGA needs to step up and regulate and educate rather than make immediate criminals out of those who use and possess this substance for a legitimate purpose.

kind regards and thanks for listening

