

## **Proposed Amendments to the Poisons Standard (Medicines)**

### **Poppers and Nitrites**

[REDACTED]

I write regarding the proposal to list poppers ( amyl and other inhalable nitrites ) in the same category as heroin. This is a gross over response for a quite innocuous group of chemicals.

#### **Therapeutic benefit:**

- There is therapeutic benefit being relaxation of specific muscles making gay sex more comfortable and reducing likelihood of tissue damage.

#### **Relative Safety:**

- The chemical group is as a whole, pretty much the least damaging of recreational chemicals.
- There were for a short time, a small number of reports of problems when combined with [REDACTED]. The easy solution is proper labelling and medical advice when prescribing [REDACTED].
- There is a small number of reports of macular damage from Iso**Propyl** Nitrite. IPN has been manufactured and used only due to the previous banning of Amyl Nitrite. The easy and safest solution is allow easy access to Amyl. IPN will then not be produced and will naturally disappear from use.
- There can be some nausea and headache caused by poor storage over a long period. Proper labelling and easy resupply of fresh product will easily fix this.
- Drinking can cause serious problems, but there again so does drinking petrol. The two are about as delicious (not) as each other.
- Effect time is very short, so there is no harm by driving under influence.

#### **Addiction:**

- There is no physical addiction.
- It can become slightly habitual, though this is less habit forming than even caffeine.

#### **So sure: Amend the listings so that restrictions ensure:**

- Clean, fresh, properly stored Amyl Nitrite or Butyl Nitrite is available to adults and is properly labelled with appropriate warnings
- IsoPropyl Nitrite is not sold