

Dear TGA,

As a gay man in Australia, throughout my whole life I've found it hard to fit in with society and to really connect with people on a mental and physical level. The prohibition of Alkyl Nitrites and similar products will drastically reduce not only my individual intimacy with future partners, but the intimacy of a large proportion of the LGBTQI+ community within this country. 5 out of 6 gay men participate in anal intercourse every year and as human beings, we should be able to express and experience sexual intimacy as we wish, within the privacy of our own bedrooms as we have been for years past. The LGBTQI+ community is an extremely diverse and robust population who strive to be inclusive and accepting of all. This proposal to re-schedule Alkyl Nitrites to a schedule 9 drug will cause more harm than good and divide a minority community from the rest of society, when all they have been trying to achieve is inclusivity and tolerance for all. Prohibition of Alkyl Nitrites will negatively impact LGBTQI+ Australians for the following reasons:

- Prohibition will lead to reduced intimacy for the LGBTQI+ community, Alkyl Nitrites allow muscles to relax within the body, especially muscles in the anus and vagina which help to ease anal intercourse. Without Alkyl Nitrites, there will be an increase in rupturing and tearing of the anus during anal intercourse for much of the community that utilizes Alkyl Nitrites for their muscle relaxant properties. This type of intimacy can usually result in some form of pain, which is lessened through the use of Alkyl Nitrites during this type of intercourse, which as mentioned above, much of the LGBTQI+ community participates in regularly. Alkyl Nitrites are a therapeutic good in the sense that they aid in pain reduction and increased intimacy with a partner, much like Viagra or Cialis which have their own long lists of side effects, however are for the most part, responsibly and safely enjoyed by men around the world as Alkyl Nitrates have been for years.
- Prohibition would force the LGBTQI+ community to turn to the Illicit drug market to purchase Alkyl Nitrites, which would not only put them in danger of being exposed to extremely harmful Illicit substances, but also in danger of attracting a criminal offense for the use of a substance which has aided LGBTQI+ community in enhancing and enjoying sexual intimacy for many years.
- Lastly, the prohibition of Alkyl Nitrites will negatively impact the mental health of many LGBTQI+ Australians who for the most part, have felt let down and singled out by the Government and wider community. This proposal directly impacts the sexual intimacy and sexual health of many LGBTQI+ Australians and will be a step backwards in terms of justice and fair treatment for the whole community. Alkyl Nitrates effects rarely negatively impact human health and in my personal experience, help to create more intimate, lasting and sensual sexual experiences, positively impacting my mental health and allowing me to explore my sexuality as I wish to do so. I have not experienced any long term side effects from the use of Alkyl Nitrites and am a perfectly healthy person who is able to function normally. I have a full time job and pay my way through life like everybody else, this prohibition would affect how I appreciate my downtime outside of work and negatively impact my sexual intimacy.

I am pleading that the TGA does not prohibit the availability of Alkyl Nitrites to the Australian public. I am not opposed to safer packaging laws, sales being restricted to certain premises e.g Adult shops, 18+ only & childproof containers, however the complete prohibition of Alkyl Nitrites in my opinion will result in increased mental health issues in an already mentally distressed minority community, reduced sexual intimacy and expression, Alkyl Nitrites being sold in the Illicit drug trade resulting in unregulated and potentially toxic chemicals being consumed by the Australian population & reduction in safe and enjoyable anal intercourse for all of the community who wish to reduce the amount of pain they may experience while doing so. More community awareness and safety around Alkyl Nitrites is needed, not the complete prohibition of this extremely advantageous, convenient and beneficial substance.

Warm regards,

Anonymous LGBTQI+ member and currently not so proud Australian Citizen.