

# MEDIA RELEASE

TUE 5 NOVEMBER 2024

## Schoolies' safety guaranteed

The LNP's decision to listen to health experts and proceed with pill testing at this year's Schoolies will improve the safety of Queensland school leavers.

"It is promising that the LNP has chosen to commence their leadership with such a sensible health decision, and we will continue to work with them to ensure this extends to drug diversion laws and permanent pill testing centres," AMA Queensland President Dr Nick Yim said.

"We were heartened when Premier Crisafulli indicated his intentions to seek expert advice on the issue.

"We were even more elated to hear he has now listened to our calls and will keep the program in 2024.

"I also hope to see the decision extended to the permanent pill testing sites implemented by the previous Government.

"Schoolies can understandably create a lot of anxiety for parents as their child leaves for a weeklong celebration away from home.

"This decision will provide some comfort to concerned parents.

"History shows that experimenting with substances, especially during young adulthood with a lack of knowledge around drug and alcohol use, can lead to harm and death.

"Early results of Queensland pill testing services indicate the benefits of education, with 16 per cent of people choosing to dispose of their substance after testing and a discussion with a health professional.

"Maintaining a service like pill testing is a simple, life-saving form of drug diversion that will minimise harm.

"The current legislation is backed by experts and provides critical safeguards for vulnerable people, including access to alcohol and drug treatment services."

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