

Media release



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Pill testing experts to debate evidence during Melbourne public forum

More than 100 drug and health specialists, along with members of the public will hear experts debate the evidence for and against pill testing in Melbourne on Friday (8 February 2019).

Organised by Penington Institute, the Victorian-based independent drug research, policy and education organisation, the public forum aims to shed more light on the controversy surrounding pill testing.

Experts speakers will include Andrew Leibie of Safework Laboratories, a specialist company providing employers with alcohol and drug policy advice, training and education, onsite drug and alcohol testing, and accredited laboratory services; Dr David Caldicott, an emergency consultant at Calvary Hospital Canberra and Adjunct Associate Professor at the University of Canberra; and Adriana Buccianti, whose son Daniel died at a music festival in 2012.

Penington Institute's Deputy CEO Dr Stephen McNally said: "We're delighted the forum has attracted so much public interest, which reflects heightened community concern and awareness over the number of recent drug-related deaths at music festivals.

"We want to establish the facts, which is why it's important there is a public forum where the evidence can be discussed."

The event, which is now sold out and waitlisted only, will be held at the Multicultural Hub, 506 Elizabeth St, Melbourne, at 12.15pm on Friday, 8 February 2019.

Note for editors:

Dr Stephen McNally is available for interview on Thursday afternoon and Friday morning. Interviews with the forum speakers may also be arranged on Friday before the event.

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About Penington Institute

Officially launched in 2014, Penington Institute grew out of the work of Anex and its 20 years' experience working with people directly affected by problematic drug use. Penington Institute's mission is to actively support the adoption of approaches to drug use that promote safety and human dignity. It does so through: independent, non-partisan thought leadership, community education, training, research and policy formation.