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**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE  
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

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**NOTICE OF MOTION**

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Michael Pettersson MLA: I give notice that I shall move – That this Assembly:

1. Notes the nation leading approach taken by the ACT Government in advancing a harm minimisation approach to alcohol and other drug policy, including through:
  - a. Implementing the actions outlined in the *ACT Government's Drug Strategy Action Plan: 2018-2021*;
  - b. the passage and implementation of the *Drugs of Dependence (Personal Cannabis Use) Amendment Act 2019*, allowing for the possession and personal use of small amounts of cannabis; and
  - c. the development of a Festival Pill Testing policy following the pilot of festival pill testing in 2018 and 2019 at the Groovin' the Moo festival; and
  - d. the release of an independent evaluation by the ANU Medical School in December 2019 showing pill testing was an overwhelming success in providing 'effective, relevant and good health information to people who plan to use illicit drugs' and encouraged users to discard tainted pills, potentially saving lives.
2. Recognises the challenge of co-occurring mental illness and alcohol and other drug use, particularly for young people and people with a trauma background.
3. Calls on the ACT Government, and whichever party or parties in the Assembly that form government following the October 2020 election, to:
  - a. continue to take a harm minimisation approach to alcohol and other drug issues;
  - b. continue to invest in community and hospital-based alcohol and other drug and mental health services;
  - c. work to better integrate mental health and drug and alcohol services across primary health, community-based services and acute hospital care;

- d. investigate the feasibility of a simple offence notice for other drugs of dependence to ascertain the legal, social and health impacts; and
- e. report to the Assembly no later than November 2021 on progress.



*Michael Pettersson MLA*

*17 August 2020*