

MEDIA RELEASE

27/04/18

ADF WELCOMES ACT DRUG CHECKING TRIAL

The Alcohol and Drug Foundation (ADF) believes the drug testing trial at this weekend's Groovin the Moo music event in the ACT, will help to reduce drug-related harms.

The trial is Australia's first official drug checking service at a music event and is aimed at preventing festivalgoers from using especially dangerous substances.

Drug checking does not promote or condone illegal drug taking. The services give people who have already purchased drugs and are intending to use them, the opportunity to test the drug's strength and key ingredients.

Drug checking services provide safe environments where young people also learn about the risks associated with drug use and can be connected to support or health services.

"Drug checking can save people's lives and leads to less dangerous drug taking," said the Alcohol and Drug Foundation's CEO Dr Erin Lalor.

Austrian research shows that half of people who had their drugs checked said their results affected their consumption. Two thirds of people in the same study said they would not take a drug if negative results were found.

"The reality is, people are bringing drugs to music events with the intention of taking them. When people use drug checking services, they are more likely to ditch their drugs or take less after learning the results," Dr Lalor said.

"Drug checking services overseas are seeing significant success, so the ADF is really looking forward to seeing the results from the Groovin the Moo drug checking trial," Dr Lalor added.

For more facts about drug checking, please visit <https://adf.org.au/insights/drug-checking-a-harm-reduction-strategy/>

ENDS

Media enquiries: Please call the Alcohol and Drug Foundation's Media Manager Carmel Green on 0430 948 380

About the Alcohol and Drug Foundation: Celebrating nearly 60 years of service to the community, the Alcohol and Drug Foundation is one of Australia's leading bodies committed to preventing alcohol and other drug harms in communities around the nation. The Foundation reaches millions of Australians in local communities through sporting clubs, workplaces, healthcare settings and schools, offering educational information, drug and alcohol prevention programs and advocating for strong and healthy communities.