

Dear [Member of Parliament],

I am writing to you regarding the *Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Miscellaneous Amendment Bill 2017*, currently being debated in parliament. The focus of this letter will be on the 'psychoactive substance' aspect of the legislation only.

The Eros Association represents adult retail stores across Australia. It is our job to respond to the needs of our members. Since 2010, Eros has seen almost 100 novel psychoactive substances emerge onto the market. Governments both state and federal have consistently failed in regulating these new substances. This Bill is no different. We have a number of concerns regarding this Bill and sadly note that the industry was not consulted. The industry has attempted to self-regulate but is has been hampered by ineffective state regulation.

The lower house debate last sitting week raised a number of issues that are of concern to us. These include:

- *Broad, unclear definitions which will likely have unintended consequences.*
- *That the Police will have difficulty in enforcing and interpreting the law.*
- *That exemptions to the definition lead to inconsistencies in the Bill*

We are interested in meeting with you to discuss this Bill and our knowledge of this industry, to help inform your decision. At that meeting we will provide you with information about the size and structure of the market in Victoria, nationally and internationally.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,

Rachel Payne
General Manager