



Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA

Minister for Health

Minister for Families and Community Services

Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs

Member for Kurrajong

Mr Tom Duncan
Clerk
ACT Legislative Assembly
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Mr ~~Duncan~~ *Tom*

Thank you for your letter of 10 February 2021 regarding the e-petitions 25-20 and 3-21, lodged by Mrs Elizabeth Kikkert MLA, regarding alcohol, tobacco and other drug policy and programs in the ACT.

The Government continues to be committed to a harm minimisation approach to alcohol and other drug policy and to providing evidence-based alcohol and other drug treatment services and programs for the people of Canberra.

Following the receipt of the e-petitions, the Standing Committee on Health and Community Wellbeing was set to hold an inquiry into the issues raised in the e-petitions and other related matters. This Inquiry has now been discontinued, however, many of the issues included in the terms of reference for the discontinued Inquiry will be considered by the Select Committee on the Drugs of Dependence (Personal Use) Amendment Bill 2021 (the Select Committee).

The Government is intending to provide a submission detailing an initial position on the broad range of issues being considered by the Select Committee. The Government welcomes this Inquiry and will respond to its recommendations in due course, noting that the Select Committee is due to report by the last sitting day in October 2021.

Yours sincerely

Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA

06 MAY 2021

ACT Legislative Assembly London Circuit, GPO Box 1020, Canberra ACT 2601

+61 2 6205 2661

stephen-smith@act.gov.au

[@RachelSS_MLA](https://twitter.com/RachelSS_MLA)

[rachelSSMLA](https://www.facebook.com/rachelSSMLA)

[rachelss_mla](https://www.instagram.com/rachelss_mla)