

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

POISONS AND NARCOTIC DRUGS (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE 1988

No. 96, 1988

The Poisons and Narcotic Drugs (Amendment) Ordinance 1988 (the Ordinance) amends the Poisons and Narcotic Drugs Ordinance 1978 (the Principal Ordinance) by updating Schedules 1-8 and 12 of the Principal Ordinance to reflect changes in the classification and availability of certain drugs. These amendments reflect changes to the National Health and Medical Research Council's Uniform Poisons Standard.

Schedule 1 lists poisons for sale where the purchaser is required to be known to the seller, and which should only be sold by medical practitioners, pharmacists, veterinary surgeons and poisons licence holders. Schedule 2 lists medicinal poisons which should be subject to the same restrictions on sale as those in Schedule 1 but where the purchaser need not be known to the seller. Schedule 3 lists potent substances which should also be subject to these restrictions but which should in addition be stored out of customers' access. Schedule 4 lists restricted substances which should be supplied on medical, dental or veterinary prescriptions only but which are not addictive.

Schedules 5 and 6 respectively list domestic poisons and industrial and agricultural poisons which should only be sold accompanied by various special warnings and first aid instructions for some of the substances and sold only by licence holders.

Schedule 7 lists dangerous poisons which should be subject to special conditions which may vary for each substance.

Schedule 8 lists addictive substances which should only be supplied on medical or veterinary prescription or signed order of an authorised person, and which are subject to special controls by the Medical Officer of Health for long term use.

Schedule 12 lists substances the possession, use or supply of which are generally prohibited.

Details of the Ordinance are set out below.

Section 1 sets out the short title of the Ordinance.

Section 2 provides for the Ordinance to commence on a date fixed by the Minister by Notice in the Gazette.

Section 3 defines 'Principal Ordinance' as the Poisons and Narcotic Drugs Ordinance 1978.

Section 4 amends section 27B of the Principal Ordinance by adding certain hormonal substances and thalidomide to the list of restricted substances to be prescribed or supplied only by authorised medical specialists.

Section 5 amends section 27E of the Principal Ordinance to restrict the use of the hormonal substances and thalidomide added to section 27B to certain categories of specialist physicians.

Section 6 repeals Schedules 1-8 and 12 of the Principal Ordinance and substitutes the schedules set out in the schedule to the Ordinance. These new Schedules are designed to reduce the high level of abuse of certain stimulants, by making these stimulants only available on prescription when marketed for appetite suppression or weight control. In addition, the amount of the addictive substance, codeine, available over the counter in analgesics has been reduced, to limit abuse of this substance.

