

# Drugs of Dependence (Independent Reviewer) Appointment 2025

## Disallowable instrument DI2025–292

made under the

**Drugs of Dependence Act 1989, s 205B (Review of certain amendments related to personal use)**

## EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

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The *Drugs of Dependence (Personal Use) Amendment Act 2022* (Personal Use Act), which commenced fully on 28 October 2023, amended the *Drugs of Dependence Act 1989* (DoD Act) to reduce penalties for possession of illicit drugs for personal use.

Section 205B of the DoD Act requires the Minister to appoint an independent person to review the operation of the amendments to the DoD Act made by the Personal Use Act, as soon as practicable after the end of the second year of operation of the Personal Use Act.

Under section 205B of the DoD Act, the person appointed to conduct the review must:

- have expertise in relation to people who use drugs or substances to which the DoD Act applies;
- not be a public servant; and
- consult with members of any community the reviewer considers is affected, or likely to be affected, by the operation of the amendments.

The appointee is not an ACT Government public servant, and the instrument makes an appointment to which Division 19.3.3 of the *Legislation Act 2001* applies. Accordingly, under section 229 of the *Legislation Act 2001* the instrument is a disallowable instrument.

This appointment has been approved by the Minister for Health, and the Standing Committee on Social Policy has been consulted in accordance with section 228 (consultation with relevant Assembly committee) of the *Legislation Act 2001*.

Professor Alison Ritter AO is appointed as the independent reviewer of the operation of the amendments made by the Personal Use Act, for the purposes of section 205B of the DoD Act. This appointment is effective from the day after notification of the appointment instrument to 31 May 2026.

Professor Ritter is a leading drug policy researcher in Australia and the Director of the Drug Policy Modelling Program at the University of New South Wales and is therefore a person with expertise in relation to people who use drugs or substances to which the DoD Act applies. The review conducted by Professor Ritter will include comprehensive consultation with community members affected by the operation of the amendments made by the Personal Use Act.