Changes to laws about synthetic cannabis.

# What is synthetic cannabis?

Synthetic cannabis is the name given to drugs that are often sold as a ‘legal’ alternative to cannabis. It is often sold as ‘herbal smoking blends’ with different brand names, such as ‘K2’, ‘Spice’, and ‘Kronic’. Even though these blends are often sold in stores or online and marketed as ‘legal’ and ‘safe’, many contain ingredients that are actually illegal and potentially very dangerous.

Is it legal in the NT?

No, it is not legal to sell synthetic cannabis. From 6 April 2020, the Chief Health Officer has placed a ban on the sale of five of the most common substances:

• CUMYL-PeGACLONE (also known as SGT-151)

• 5-fluoro CUMYL-P7AICA (also known as 5F-CUMYL-P7AICA; CUMYL-5F-P7AICA)

• 5-fluoro-AB-P7AICA (also known as 5F‐AB‐P7AICA)

• NM2201 (also known as Naphthalen-1-yl 1-(5-fluoropentyl)-1H-indole-3-carboxylate)

• Methanandamide.

NT Police can enforce these laws and regulations. The Maximum penalty: 200 penalty units (up to $30,400) or imprisonment for 2 years.

Why has the law changed?

Synthetic cannabis is harmful. Usually these blends are plant material that have been sprayed with one or more active chemicals so that, when smoked, they mimic some of the effects of cannabis. As the active ingredients used are often synthetic and produced in laboratories, they are neither ‘herbal’ nor ‘natural’. There have been a range of adverse side effects associated with synthetic cannabis products including nausea, anxiety, paranoia, brain swelling, seizures, hallucinations, aggression, heart palpitations, and chest pains.

Getting help

Alcohol and Drug Information Service (ADIS) 24hrs a day, 7 days a week Phone counselling and information service. Phone 1800 131 350

Poisons and Medicines Control, phone 89227341 or email poisonscontrol@nt.gov.au

For more information visit [**https://health.nt.gov.au/professionals/alcohol-and- other-drugs-health-professionals**](https://health.nt.gov.au/professionals/alcohol-and-%20other-drugs-health-professionals)