

In Australia, **Desoxyn** (pharmaceutical methamphetamine hydrochloride) is not available primarily because it is not registered on the **Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods (ARTG)**.<sup>1</sup>

The pharmaceutical regulatory landscape in Australia differs significantly from the United States regarding this specific medication. Here is a breakdown of why it isn't an option for treating ADHD in Australia:

## 1. Lack of Manufacturer Application

For any medicine to be sold in Australia, a "sponsor" (the pharmaceutical company) must apply to the **Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA)** and provide data on safety, quality, and efficacy.<sup>2</sup>

- **The Reality:** No manufacturer has currently applied to register Desoxyn or a generic version of methamphetamine hydrochloride for ADHD in Australia. The Australian government cannot force a company to bring a product to market.<sup>3</sup>
- **Economic Viability:** Because Australia is a smaller market and already has established ADHD treatments (like methylphenidate and dexamfetamine), companies may not see a financial incentive to go through the costly registration process for a niche, highly stigmatized drug.

## 2. Strict Scheduling and "Illegal" Status

In Australia, methamphetamine is classified under **Schedule 8 (Controlled Drug)**, but unlike dexamfetamine, there is no TGA-approved pharmaceutical version of it.

- **Public Policy:** Because methamphetamine (as "ice" or "speed") has been the focus of major public health crises and law enforcement "war on drugs" campaigns in Australia, there is a very high regulatory and social barrier to introducing it as a legitimate medical treatment.<sup>4</sup>
- **Availability of Alternatives:** Australian clinical guidelines prioritize other stimulants. Dexamfetamine (the "dex" in Adderall) and Lisdexamfetamine (Vyvanse) provide similar therapeutic effects with a lower perceived risk of the neurotoxicity and extreme addiction associated with methamphetamine.

## 3. Safety and Abuse Concerns

While Desoxyn is FDA-approved in the US as a second-line treatment, the TGA generally applies a more conservative "precautionary principle."

- **Potency:** Methamphetamine crosses the blood-brain barrier more efficiently than regular

amphetamine, making it more potent and potentially more addictive.

- **Stigma:** The severe societal impact of illicit methamphetamine use in Australia makes it politically and medically difficult to justify its use, even in a controlled pharmaceutical form.

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## Can you get it under special circumstances?

While it isn't "available" at a standard pharmacy, Australian law does allow for the **Special Access Scheme (SAS)**.<sup>5</sup> This allows a doctor to apply for permission to import an "unapproved" medicine for a specific patient if they can prove that all other TGA-approved treatments have failed.

However, getting approval for pharmaceutical methamphetamine is **extremely rare** and requires a high burden of proof from a specialist (psychiatrist) and significant paperwork to import it from overseas (usually the US).