

Community Sharps

Community sharps are needles, syringes and lancets that are used to administer medications and drugs outside a clinical setting.

We need to dispose of sharps safely to prevent needlestick injury in our public places, at home and for workers who remove waste or clean facilities. Whether or not a community sharp is used for medication or drug use, sharps are to be treated as clinical waste, like they would be in a hospital.

Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council has a number of community sharps bins installed in public toilets to encourage sharps waste to be managed separately from general waste. Additionally, the Queanbeyan Hospital accepts sharps for disposal. Visit safesharps.org.au to find other local community sharps drop off locations.



More Advice and Information

Needle Clean Up

For when you find needles in a public place:

☎ QPRC 02 6285 6246

Post Exposure Hotline

If you think you have been exposed to HIV, for immediate advice:

☎ 1800 737 669

Locate sharps bins in NSW

Visit safesharps.org.au to find the nearest location

Community sharps

Visit communitysharps.org.au for more information

QPRC



Are there any risks with a needlestick injury?

The harm most commonly experienced after a needlestick injury is the anxiety it can cause.

Blood borne infections from needlestick injury in the community are extremely low, with no cases of HIV ever acquired from a discarded needle in the community.

What to do if you get a needlestick injury:

1. Wash the site with warm running water (do not squeeze the site).
2. Contact your local doctor.
3. For more advice and support, contact the Post Exposure Hotline on 1800 737 669.

Safe Disposal Procedure

Never place a needle or syringe in a garbage bin. Council does not encourage community members to pick up needles or syringes, however if you are comfortable please follow this procedure.

1. If you do not feel comfortable disposing of a needle or syringe, or you would like further advice, please call 02 6285 6246.
2. Find a puncture proof container such as a plastic drink bottle or takeaway container and take it to the discarded syringe. Place the container on the ground.
3. Carefully pick up the syringe from the plunger end.
4. Carefully place the syringe in the container, sharp end first.
5. Place the container in a community sharps bin or for collection call the NSW needle clean up hotline on 1800 633 353.
6. Wash your hands.

