

Syringe Management Plan

2004-2006





Table of Contents

1. Introduction	4
2. Roles and Responsibilities	5
2.1 Federal and State Government Roles	5
2.2 Needle and Syringe Programs.....	5
2.3 Local Government Role	6
3. Development Process	7
3.1 Syringe Management Plan Expert Advisory Committee.....	7
3.2 Data Analysis	8
3.3 Community Consultation	8
4. Key Achievements of the Syringe Management Plan 2001-2003.....	9
5. Current Trends and Priorities	10
5.1 Trends in Syringe Disposal.....	10
5.2 Current Priorities	10
5.3 The Impact of Legislation.....	11
6. Action Plan.....	12
6.1 Goal	12
6.2 Principles Underpinning the Plan	12
6.3 Priority Areas for Action	12
6.4 Three Year Action Plan	13
6.5 Evaluation and Monitoring.....	25
7. Acknowledgments.....	26

1. Introduction

The *Syringe Management Plan 2004-2006* provides a range of opportunities for facilitating innovative and responsive approaches to syringe management across the City of Melbourne.

Following on from the first *Syringe Management Plan 2001-2003*, the new Plan complements a range of Council's major policy frameworks including *A Strategy for a Safer City 2004-2006*, the *City Health Plan* and the *Drugs Action Plan 2004-2006*. Improving community safety and environmental health are also important aspects of Council's overall *City Plan 2010*.

The *Syringe Management Plan 2004-2006* is founded on the concept of 'harm reduction' and is in line with the objectives and directions of relevant State and Federal Government policy frameworks, including the Victorian Government's *Safe Needle Disposal Strategy*. Council's *Syringe Management Plan 2004-2006* does not concern itself with syringes used by accredited practitioners for medical procedures in hospitals, clinics and doctors surgeries, or by veterinarians, dentists, tattooists and acupuncturists.

The City of Melbourne's syringe management activities were recognised with an Excellence in Leadership Award from the Victorian Division of the Australian Institute of Environmental Health in 2001.





2. Roles and Responsibilities

The relevant roles and responsibilities relating to managing syringe issues are complex, involving all levels of government and a range of initiatives, including needle and syringe programs.

2.1 Federal and State Government Roles

Federal and State Governments are responsible for policy development, implementation and evaluation of police, health and education services aimed at reducing drug-related harm. Policy development and implementation may range from developing legislation to the provision of drug treatment services.

In January 2001, the Victorian Department of Human Services launched the *Safe Needle Disposal Strategy* in response to significant community concern about the presence of discarded syringes in public spaces. A toll free disposal help-line was established to assist the general community to safely handle and dispose of syringes found in public places. Other initiatives were developed to encourage appropriate disposal of used syringes by injecting drug users.

A group of stakeholders from across Victoria known as the Disposal Monitoring Group was established to further develop understanding of syringe management, and decide on roles and responsibilities for government and other agencies. Local Government is represented by the Victorian Local Governance Association. The City of Melbourne participates in working groups focussed on community education, research and surveillance.

2.2 Needle and Syringe Programs

The Victorian Needle and Syringe Program was established more than 15 years ago as a public health initiative to minimise the spread of HIV/AIDS and other blood borne viruses among injecting drug users, and from injecting drug users to the wider community.

Under this program a number of State and Federally funded services distribute sterile injecting equipment and health information, including information about safe disposal of used needles and syringes, to injecting drug users. Over the last decade, as injecting drug use has become increasingly 'street-based', the disposal of used injecting equipment has become a significant issue for many Local Government Authorities, including the City of Melbourne.

Although only a small number of the needles and syringes distributed through the Victorian Needle and Syringe Program in the City of Melbourne are inappropriately discarded, their presence and visibility cause considerable community concern. The City of Melbourne fully supports the distribution of sterile needles and syringes to injecting drug users as a public health measure. The City recognises the presence of inappropriately discarded syringes across the municipality poses a risk to public health and has a negative impact on the perception of community safety.

2. Roles and Responsibilities

2.3 Local Government Role

State and Federal Government policies and legislative frameworks guide the syringe management roles and responsibilities of Local Government. The provisions of the Victorian *Health Act 1958* and the Victorian *Local Government Act 1989* make it clear that Councils have a responsibility to:

- Maintain a clean, sanitary and safe environment;
- Protect public health;
- Provide services that meet community needs;
- Collect and dispose of refuse; and
- Remedy any nuisance that may be dangerous to health, or cause offence.

The *Syringe Management Plan 2004-2006* also embodies Council's commitment to the principles of risk management and due diligence. Council has a clear duty of care to the community under legislation and is exposed to liability if found negligent. Council has undertaken extensive efforts to ensure due diligence is exercised in relation to each of the points above. The City's daily response to inappropriate syringe disposal is rigorous, and the network of safe disposal bins across the municipality is extensive, well maintained and reflects international best practise in syringe disposal.

To inform the development of the *Syringe Management Plan 2004-2006*, a comprehensive review process was conducted involving extensive input and participation from the community. This process ensured the Plan met the needs and expectations of the community, and utilised best practice, evidence-based approaches.

Council's formal adoption of the *Syringe Management Plan 2004-2006* demonstrates a level of commitment that is strategic, proactive and well beyond the minimum requirement of legal compliance.





3. Development Process

The development process for the *Syringe Management Plan 2004-2006* included the establishment of a Syringe Management Plan Expert Advisory Committee, community consultation and the analysis of drug trends data. The Lord Mayor's Safety and Drugs Advisory Committee endorsed the review process for the Plan in February 2003.

Data analysis and community consultation informing development of the *Syringe Management Plan 2004-2006* coincided with the review process for Council's *Drugs Action Plan*. The *Syringe Management Plan 2004-2006* was made available for public comment before final Council endorsement.

3.1 Syringe Management Plan Expert Advisory Committee

The Syringe Management Plan Expert Advisory Committee was established in April 2003 and included representation from a wide range of key local service providers, peak bodies and expert agencies.

The terms of reference for the committee included overseeing the review process, considering the results of consultation and research, and guiding the development of a draft *Syringe Management Plan 2004-2006*. The committee met monthly throughout the process.

The membership of the Syringe Management Plan Expert Advisory Committee consisted of:

- **Susanne Baxandall**
Diabetes Australia (Victoria Division)
- **Grace Blau**
City of Melbourne Health Services
- **Venetia Brissenden**
Hepatitis C Council of Victoria
- **Kathy Don**
Youth Projects Inc.
- **Leanne Gardiner**
City of Melbourne Community Services
- **Alison Gate**
Department of Human Services
- **Christine Hardy**
Melbourne Inner City Needle and Syringe Program (MINE)
- **Pauline Hitchins**
City of Melbourne Corporate Communications
- **Roland Jauernig**
Department of Human Services
- **Ambi Kaur**
Doutta Galla Community Health Service
- **Kath Kelly**
Department of Human Services (Western Region)
- **Jack Macak**
City of Melbourne Parks and Recreation
- **Piergiorgio Moro**
Hepatitis C Council of Victoria
- **Ron Nelson**
City of Melbourne Engineering Services
- **Paul Newbold**
City of Melbourne Parks and Recreation
- **John Ryan**
Association of Needle and Syringe Programs (ANEX)
- **Kealy Smith**
City of Melbourne Community Services

3. Development Process

- **Jim Sotiropoulos**
Department of Human Services
- **Kay Stanton**
Steroid Peer Education Project
- **David Voon**
Association of Needle and Syringe Programs (ANEX)

3.2 Data Analysis

Relevant data was analysed as part of the review process to determine current syringe disposal trends in the municipality. Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre was engaged by Council to establish the Emerging Drug Trends in the City of Melbourne research consultancy, through which syringe disposal trend data was analysed.

3.3 Community Consultation

Extensive community consultation was undertaken to ensure the *Syringe Management Plan 2004-2006* reflected the needs and expectations of the local community.

Initial consultation was completed between March and May 2003 and a Syringe Management Consultative Workshop was conducted in early June 2003. In addition, Council conducted Perceptions of Safety Research with over 1400 local residents, visitors and traders in May 2003, obtaining crucial information about the level of community concern about syringe disposal and the effectiveness of current initiatives to manage syringe issues across the municipality.

Initial Community Consultation

Over 270 people were consulted in the initial consultation phase, with over 80 interviews or other consultative sessions held. This initial consultation sought feedback about the effectiveness of current syringe management initiatives, and aimed to identify current and emerging syringe issues within the municipality. This process included consultation for Council's *Drugs Action Plan* review.

Input was obtained from local residents, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, young people, people with disabilities, people who use drugs, business groups, local service providers, expert agencies and peak bodies.

Consultative workshop

A series of eight consultative workshops were conducted in early June 2003 as part of the *Drugs Action Plan* and *Syringe Management Plan 2004-2006* review processes.

A specific Syringe Management Consultative Workshop was conducted on 13 June 2003. Workshop participants were diverse and included representatives of other local government areas, community health centres, the Australian Retailers Association (Victoria), Crown Casino, Youth Projects Inc., Hepatitis C Council of Victoria, and Melbourne Water.

The Syringe Management Consultative Workshop focussed on confirming priority areas for the *Syringe Management Plan 2004-2006*, and identifying a range of strategies that could be included in the Plan to further improve the management of syringe issues across the municipality.



4. Key Achievements of the Syringe Management Plan 2001-2003

Community feedback obtained through the review process was overwhelmingly positive about the effectiveness of the *Syringe Management Plan 2001-2003*.

The Plan's initiatives, especially when considered in the context of the City of Melbourne's overall activities to address drug-related harm (the *Drugs Action Plan 2001-2003* and *A Strategy for a Safe City 2000-2002*), were identified as particularly effective. The Plan was regarded as having made an important contribution towards decreasing community and trader concerns about inappropriately discarded syringes.

Key achievements of the *Syringe Management Plan 2001-2003* included:

- Provision of a private property response syringe disposal service for local businesses and community members;
- Provision of daily syringe clean-ups in the Central Business District;
- Expansion of syringe clean-up services to 'hot spot' areas in the municipality outside the Central Business District;
- Installation of syringe disposal units in every cubicle of Council public toilets;

- Increased strategic installation of syringe disposal bins throughout the municipality;
- Community education campaigns to promote safe disposal in public toilets;
- Provision of a six-month Free Safe Syringe Bin Trial for local businesses; and
- Provision of a free syringe disposal training program to local businesses and community groups.

The City of Melbourne's Perceptions of Safety market research, conducted in May 2003, also indicated a high awareness of Council's syringe disposal services and a strong perception among local traders and community members that these initiatives were effective in improving safety in the municipality.

5. Current Trends and Priorities

5.1 Trends in syringe disposal

The analysis of syringe disposal data conducted as part of the development of the *Syringe Management Plan 2004-2006* indicated a number of clear and dramatic improvements in syringe disposal across the municipality.

In particular, the numbers of appropriately disposed syringes (in Council syringe disposal bins) steadily increased during the implementation period of the *Syringe Management Plan 2001-2003*, coinciding with decreases in inappropriately discarded syringes. Reductions were most evident in the numbers of inappropriately discarded syringes found in Council's public toilets between July 2000 and April 2003.

Syringe related complaints received by Council also reduced significantly during the implementation period of the *Syringe Management Plan 2001-2003*.

5.2 Current priorities

Community feedback received during the review of the *Syringe Management Plan 2001-2003* indicated the priorities, approach and many of the actions in the Plan remained relevant and appropriate for addressing syringe management across the municipality. Community feedback was largely positive.

In particular, local syringe management priorities were confirmed as continuing to involve a clear role for Council in:

- Maximising appropriate disposal;
- Ensuring rapid syringe collection; and
- Monitoring and continuous improvement with respect to syringe management.

Nevertheless, the review process also identified several opportunities for enhancing Council's syringe management role and activities.

These opportunities include:

- Further investigating options for re-designing syringe disposal bins to increase their capacity to be used for the disposal of associated injecting paraphernalia;
- Improving data collection methods regarding syringe disposal;
- Better understanding the needs of steroid users and people with diabetes relating to syringe disposal services;
- Developing mechanisms for improving community access to associated syringe services, such as looking at opportunities to increase the after-hours provision of clean injecting equipment;
- Strengthening local partnerships to ensure coordinated, local approaches to syringe management;
- Enhancing Council's community information and education programs relating to syringe disposal, including translating resources into community languages; and
- Increasing the variety of syringe disposal options available in the community (such as increasing the number of syringe chutes in the municipality).

Local priorities for syringe management were carefully considered alongside these opportunities for new or enhanced activities by the Syringe Management Plan Expert Advisory Committee, and used to inform the development of the *Syringe Management Plan 2004-2006*.



5.3 The impact of legislation

One of the key issues raised during the consultation process was the impact of legislation and policing practices on syringe disposal practices employed by injecting drug users. Particular concern was expressed in relation to the *Drugs Poisons and Controlled Substances Act 1981*.

Section 75 of the *Drugs Poisons and Controlled Substances Act 1981* makes it an offence to use a drug of dependence. Studies in Victoria indicate many drug users dispose of their needles and syringes as quickly as possible after injecting because they are afraid they will be intercepted by police while carrying a needle or syringe. Their concern relates to the risk of being searched, questioned and possibly charged with the use of a drug of dependence because they are carrying a needle or syringe.

As possession of a syringe can be used as evidence to support a drug charge, there is little incentive to carry a syringe until it can be safely placed in a syringe disposal facility. This situation impacts on the incidence of unsafe disposal of syringes in the City of Melbourne, increasing the need for a more coordinated and flexible approach to syringe disposal in areas known to be sites of illegal drug use.

The City of Melbourne will work in partnership with other key stakeholders toward the reduction of the impact of Section 75 on appropriate syringe disposal.



6. Action Plan

6.1 Goal

The goal of the *Syringe Management Plan 2004-2006* is for the City of Melbourne to take an holistic, partnership-based approach to the management of syringe issues, and to implement a variety of measures aimed at achieving health and safety for all people who live and work in the municipality.

6.2 Principles Underpinning the Plan

Several principles underpin the *Syringe Management Plan 2004-2006*. These include:

A Clean and Safe City – encompassing a commitment by Council to work towards improving safety in the municipality, and to provide a clean environment.

Public Health – ensuring that syringe management activities are implemented with the aim of improving public health outcomes for the whole community.

Harm Reduction – focussing syringe management activities on reducing the social, economic and health related harm experienced by the community.

Health for All – recognising the importance of equitable health outcomes for all members of the community.

Partnership Approach – implementing local activities and services using a partnership approach and valuing the involvement and input of other levels of government, local traders, residents, contractors, local health and social services, as well as expert agencies and peak bodies.

Capacity Building – encouraging and supporting the whole community to build capacity in syringe management.

6.3 Priority Areas for Action

The priority areas for action identified in the *Syringe Management Plan 2004-2006* are:

- Maximising appropriate disposal;
- Ensuring rapid syringe collection;
- Monitoring and continuous improvement; and
- Promoting public health and harm reduction.





6.4 Three Year Action Plan

Maximising Appropriate Syringe Disposal

Objective	Strategies	Actions	Partnership Opportunities	Priority (Year 1,2,3)
A Encourage broad community participation in the safe disposal of syringes.	A1 Develop a range of education resources and initiatives with the goal of improving safe syringe disposal.	A1.1 Supply sharps disposal containers to community members, free of charge, upon request.		core
		A1.2 Work with Diabetes Australia to determine how Council can best assist in raising the awareness of residents with diabetes about the importance of safe sharps disposal and available services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diabetes Australia Victorian Government 	1
		A1.3 Work with the Steroid Peer Education Project to determine how Council can best assist in raising the awareness of people who inject steroids about the importance of safe sharps disposal and available services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Steroid Peer Education Project Health and fitness centres 	1
		A1.4 Work with managers of City Loop train stations to develop strategies to reduce the incidence of inappropriate syringe disposal.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Connex M Trains 	1
		A1.5 Work with relevant stakeholders to develop skills and awareness among injecting drug users relating to safe syringe disposal.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth Projects Living Room Victorian Government VIVAIDS 	core
		A1.6 Work with expert agencies and emergency personnel with the goal of maximising appropriate syringe disposal in the City of Melbourne.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emergency services personnel Expert agencies 	3
		A1.7 Facilitate discussion on the impact of Section 75 of the <i>Drugs Poisons and Controlled Substances Act 1981</i> on syringe disposal with key stakeholders.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key stakeholders 	1
		A1.8 Develop or identify a peer education program, including recruitment of bilingual project workers, to provide information to culturally and linguistically diverse communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expert agencies 	2

6. Action Plan

6.4 Three Year Action Plan

Maximising Appropriate Syringe Disposal

Objective	Strategies	Actions	Partnership Opportunities	Priority (Year 1,2,3)
A Encourage broad community participation in the safe disposal of syringes (continued).	A1 Develop a range of education resources and initiatives with the goal of improving safe syringe disposal (continued).	A1.9 Prepare a low literacy brochure to communicate methods of safe syringe disposal and what to do in the case of needlestick injury.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ANEX Needle and Syringe Programs (NSP) VivAids 	1
		A1.10 Develop education materials in languages other than English, and encourage service providers to do the same, where possible.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Victorian Government Expert Agencies 	1
		A1.11 Raise awareness about the locations of syringe disposal facilities among injecting drug users, residents and traders through targeted communications.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NSP Living Room Trader Groups Resident Groups 	2
	A2 Improve the network of syringe disposal facilities located throughout the municipality, strategically determining new sites.	A2.1 Ensure there are adequate syringe disposal units in all 'hot spots' throughout the municipality.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NSP Expert agencies 	core
		A2.2 As new Council public toilet facilities are commissioned, continue to install syringe disposal units in each cubicle.		core
		A2.3 Maintain a commitment to providing sharps disposal bins that accommodate larger injection equipment and injecting paraphernalia in all new locations and at replacement sites.		1,2 & 3
		A2.4 Install a minimum of six 120-litre disposal bins throughout the municipality for the disposal of all kinds of injecting equipment and sharps containers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NSP 	2
		A2.5 Identify ways of improving the effectiveness of syringe disposal bins in Exeloos, and pursue appropriate strategies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Government NSP 	1



Objective	Strategies	Actions	Partnership Opportunities	Priority (Year 1,2,3)
A Encourage broad community participation in the safe disposal of syringes (continued).	A3 Support traders in reducing inappropriate syringe disposal in and around business premises.	A3.1 Encourage syringe management planning for businesses, including the installation of syringe disposal bins where appropriate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business owners 	Core
		A3.2 Identify and acknowledge business health and safety initiatives including syringe disposal management.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Victorian Government • Business owners 	1,2 & 3
		A3.3 Implement recommendations from the evaluation of the Business Incentive Scheme developed as a part of the <i>Syringe Management Plan 2001-2003</i> .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Businesses 	1,2 & 3
	A4 Advocate for increased syringe disposal options in the community.	A4.1 Collaborate with the Department of Human Services (DHS), Needle and Syringe Programs (NSP), hospitals, pharmacies and medical centres to increase opportunities for community members to safely dispose of syringes and other paraphernalia.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Victorian Government • NSP • Hospitals • Pharmacies • Medical Centres 	3
		A4.2 Facilitate a meeting for pharmacy stakeholders to discuss current practice and the possibility of improving syringe disposal facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pharmacies • Turning Point • Pharmacy Guild 	1

6. Action Plan

6.4 Three Year Action Plan

Ensuring Rapid Syringe Collection

Objective	Strategies	Actions	Partnership Opportunities	Priority (Year 1,2,3)
B Increase capacity to respond to inappropriate syringe disposal.	B1 Continue to provide effective syringe clean-up services for public and private property.	B1.1 Continue to provide a seven-day per week syringe clean-up service to ensure 'hotspots' are cleaned regularly.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NSP 	core
		B1.2 Continue to provide response services to support private property owners in ensuring the safe and rapid disposal of syringes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NSP 	core
		B1.3 Continue to service, maintain and expand the City of Melbourne's network of syringe disposal bins located in parks, laneways and public toilets across the municipality.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NSP 	core
		B1.4 Investigate syringe disposal issues as they emerge, and work with stakeholders to develop solutions. Maintain flexibility in syringe management responses.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expert Agencies Victoria Police 	core
		B1.5 Maintain close communication between relevant City of Melbourne staff and service providers, including monthly meetings and reporting to ensure issues related to service delivery are addressed promptly.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NSP Service providers 	core
		B1.6 Ensure syringe clean-up services specifically include the clean up of all paraphernalia associated with drug use.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NSP Service providers 	core
		B1.7 Identify and develop opportunities to promote Council's Private Property Response Service to residents and traders.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Businesses Resident groups 	2 & 3



Objective	Strategies	Actions	Partnership Opportunities	Priority (Year 1,2,3)
B Increase capacity to respond to inappropriate syringe disposal (continued).	B2 Develop the capacity of all sectors of the community to respond effectively and safely to syringe issues.	B2.1 Develop an information package to be provided to new City of Melbourne staff as a part of Council's induction procedures.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expert Agencies 	1
		B2.2 Provide comprehensive safe syringe handling and disposal training to all relevant City of Melbourne managers and staff and give them the option of refresher training on a yearly basis.		1
		B2.3 Invite City of Melbourne service providers and contractors to participate in comprehensive safe syringe handling and disposal training, at no cost, with the option of refresher training on a yearly basis.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Service providers Contractors 	core
		B2.4 Continue to provide safe syringe handling and disposal training for businesses and the wider community at no cost.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Businesses Sporting Clubs Schools 	core
		B2.5 Strategically promote the availability of the free training program. In particular promote availability of the training program to community groups who operate outdoors, sporting clubs, schools, pharmacies, police, fire brigades and city railway stations. Provide tailored training programs for different groups as much as possible.		core

6. Action Plan

6.4 Three Year Action Plan

Ensuring Rapid Syringe Collection

Objective	Strategies	Actions	Partnership Opportunities	Priority (Year 1,2,3)
B Increase capacity to respond to inappropriate syringe disposal (continued).	B2 Develop the capacity of all sectors of the community to respond effectively and safely to syringe issues (continued).	B2.6 Work with the Department of Education and Training (DET) to determine how Council can best assist pre-schools, primary and high schools in the municipality in being prepared for safe syringe disposal.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Victorian Government Primary and Secondary Schools 	3
		B2.7 Ensure training covers realistic scenarios including the likelihood that people may not have approved containers when discovering discarded syringes, and may need to improvise.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ANEX NSP Victorian Government 	core
		B2.8 Address the sense of fear often associated with the sight of discarded syringes. All materials should be fact-based and clearly describe the steps of safe syringe retrieval and disposal.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ANEX NSP Local Government Victorian Government 	core



Monitoring and Continuous Improvement

Objective	Strategies	Actions	Partnership Opportunities	Priority (Year 1,2,3)
C Ensure strategic development in syringe management practices, policies and protocols.	C1 Employ a systematic approach to the collection and analysis of syringe disposal data, for the early identification of emerging 'hotspots' and to ensure strategic provision of facilities.	C1.1 Further refine data collection and monitoring processes to enhance understanding of improper syringe disposal patterns and changes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NSP Victorian Government 	core
		C1.2 Analyse syringe disposal data on a monthly basis to maintain awareness about moving 'hotspots' and disposal trends.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expert Agencies Victorian Government 	core
		C1.3 Investigate the possibility of a more effective information management system for syringe disposal data.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Victorian Government Expert agencies 	core
		C1.4 Develop protocols for the use of syringe data, on advice from the Syringe Management Plan Expert Advisory Committee.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expert Agencies 	3
	C2 Develop partnerships with other levels of Government and other municipalities to improve syringe management outcomes.	C2.1 Participate, as appropriate, in the ongoing development and implementation of the <i>Victorian Safe Needle Disposal Strategy</i> .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Victorian Government 	core
		C2.2 Actively participate in syringe and drug issues networks at local and state levels as a means of networking, information sharing and tackling current issues with a partnership approach.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Victorian Government 	core

6. Action Plan

6.4 Three Year Action Plan

Monitoring and Continuous Improvement

Objective	Strategies	Actions	Partnership Opportunities	Priority (Year 1,2,3)
C Ensure strategic development in syringe management practices, policies and protocols (continued).	C2 Develop partnerships with other levels of government and other municipalities to improve syringe management outcomes (continued).	C2.3 Encourage DHS to reconvene the Syringe Disposal Community Working Group with a view to invigorating dialogue, networking and information sharing among stakeholders in the region.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Victorian Government NSP Local Government 	2
		C2.4 Work with the Local Government Drug Issues Forum (LGDIF) to host a workshop for key stakeholders to present and discuss syringe management initiatives, current issues and challenges from a local government perspective.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LGDIF 	2
		C2.5 Work with Melbourne Water to investigate the quantity of syringe litter that is washed through drainage systems to waterways and foreshore areas, and devise appropriate solutions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Melbourne Water 	2 & 3
		C2.6 Utilise syringe disposal data to assist the development of evidence based solutions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expert Agencies 	Core
		C2.7 Strategically communicate successful syringe management outcomes to the community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expert Agencies Community Centres Schools 	Core



Objective	Strategies	Actions	Partnership Opportunities	Priority (Year 1,2,3)
C Ensure strategic development in syringe management practices, policies and protocols (continued).	C2 Develop partnerships with other levels of government and other municipalities to improve syringe management outcomes (continued).	C2.8 Conduct an annual review of this Plan's implementation, reporting on the timeliness and effectiveness of actions and the continued relevance of future actions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expert Agencies 	1,2 & 3
		C2.9 Continually develop and improve syringe collection units and mechanisms, and syringe management services in the municipality in response to developments in knowledge and technology.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expert Agencies 	Core
		C2.10 Work collaboratively with other local municipalities to benchmark syringe management programs including the business support program at the City of Darebin.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Government VLGA 	3

6. Action Plan

6.4 Three Year Action Plan

Promoting Public Health and Harm Reduction

Objective	Strategies	Actions	Partnership Opportunities	Priority (Year 1,2,3)
D Improve public health outcomes.	D1 Establish strong partnerships with relevant organisations to play a role in HIV and hepatitis C prevention.	D1.1 Liaise with all relevant stakeholders to determine the role Council can play to develop awareness about hepatitis C and HIV and the dangers of sharing injecting equipment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VivAids • Hepatitis C Council of Victoria • NSP • Victorian Government 	1
		D1.2 Work with the Hepatitis C Council of Victoria to determine what role Council can play in raising awareness about hepatitis C and HIV in the remand centre located in the City of Melbourne, and pursue appropriate initiatives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hepatitis C Council of Victoria • Victorian Government 	2
		D1.3 Work with all relevant stakeholders to advocate for the availability of sterile injecting equipment and disposal facilities in prison settings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Victorian Government • Expert Agencies 	3
		D1.4 Liaise with all relevant stakeholders including DHS, NSPs and hospitals to identify gaps in the availability of sterile injecting equipment in the City of Melbourne, with a view to identifying what role Council could play in working toward filling gaps in access.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Victorian Government • NSP • Hospitals 	2
		D1.5 Investigate the adequacy of after hours access to sterile injecting equipment in the municipality and consider viable options to improve access, where necessary.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Victorian Government • Expert Agencies 	2
		D1.6 Work with pharmacies to improve syringe access and disposal options at pharmacies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pharmacists and staff • Pharmacy Guild • Turning Point 	3



Objective	Strategies	Actions	Partnership Opportunities	Priority (Year 1,2,3)
D Improve public health outcomes (continued).	D2 Participate actively in policy development and debate.	D2.1 Recognise the City of Melbourne's unique position as Victoria's capital city local municipality, and accordingly play a lead role in representing local government issues to the State and Federal Governments as appropriate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Victorian Government • Federal Government 	Core
	D3 Reduce syringe-related harms through implementation of occupational health and safety measures.	D3.1 Encourage traders to assess their situation from an occupational health and safety perspective, to protect employees and customers from needlestick injury.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traders • Victorian Government 	3
		D3.2 Investigate opportunities to partner or support DHS in the development of measures to improve the safety of the syringe waste collection process.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Victorian Government 	2

6. Action Plan

6.5 Evaluation and Monitoring

The evaluation and monitoring process for the *Syringe Management Plan 2004-2006* will include:

- **A separate evaluation of each action included in the Plan** – to ensure strategies are meeting their identified objectives;
- **Regular analysis of local disposal trends** – to ensure local activities are meeting changing local needs and community expectations;
- **An annual report on the Plan's implementation** – to track yearly progress in meeting the Plan's identified objectives; and

- **An overall evaluation of the *Syringe Management Plan 2004-2006* following completion** – to determine the effectiveness of the Plan in achieving the desired outcomes for the local community and to assist in planning future activities.

An evaluation framework will be developed in the first year of the Plan's implementation to ensure ongoing data is collected for regular monitoring and overall evaluation.

In addition, the Syringe Management Plan Expert Advisory Committee will continue to meet to oversee the Plan's implementation and provide ongoing advice to Council on the relevance and effectiveness of local syringe management activities. It is envisaged the Expert Advisory Committee will meet every six months.

Existing community consultative networks and committees (such as the CBD Police and Service Providers Forum and the Inner West Drug and Health Forum) will continue to facilitate regular dialogue between Council, Victoria Police and local service providers, and inform the implementation of local programs.

Working groups will be convened as needed to ensure stakeholder input into the development and implementation of specific syringe management initiatives.





Acknowledgements

The City of Melbourne would like to acknowledge and thank all those who participated in the review process for the development of the *Syringe Management Plan 2004-2006*.

Organisations and local networks that contributed to the review process included:

- Aboriginal Legal Service
- Association of Needle and Syringe Programs (ANEX)
- Australian Drug Foundation (ADF)
- Australian Hotels Association
- Australian Retailers Association Victoria (ARAV)
- Bilingual drug education course participants
- Burnet Institute
- CAD Police and Community Consultative Committee
- Carlton Police and Community Consultative Committee
- Carlton/Parkville Youth Services
- Centrelink
- City Licensing Forum
- City of Greater Dandenong
- City of Melbourne Disability Advisory Committee
- City of Moonee Valley
- Coalition of Residents Associations
- Crime Prevention Victoria
- Crown Entertainment Complex
- CSS – Consolidated Security Service
- DASWest
- De Paul House
- Department of Human Services
- Diabetes Australia Victoria
- Dimitriadis Fitch
- Doutta Galla Community Health Service
- EMS (Night Club Owners Association)
- Environment Protection Authority, Victoria
- Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria
- Family Drug Help
- Flagstaff Police and Community Consultative Committee
- Frontyard
- Gin Palace
- Health Works
- Hepatitis C Council of Victoria
- Inner West Drug and Health Forum
- Inner West Migrant Resource Centre
- Inner West Primary Mental Health Team
- Liquor Licensing Victoria
- Living Room Primary Health Service
- Melbourne Division of General Practice
- Melbourne Inner City Needle and Syringe Program
- Melbourne Water
- Melbourne/Moonee Valley Primary Care Partnership
- Metropolitan Ambulance Service
- Michael Scavone (Pharmacy Consultant)
- Narcotics Anonymous (NA)
- Newton's Pharmacy
- Nightrider bus drivers
- North and West Melbourne Association

Acknowledgements

- North Yarra Community Health Service
- Odyssey House
- Open Family
- Ozanam House
- Pharmacy Guild
- Portland Hotel
- Property Council of Victoria
- QUIT
- Residents 3000
- RMIT
- Royal Women's Hospital
- Share Care
- Slade-Wyatt Pharmacy
- Southbank/Domain Police and Community Consultative Committee
- Spotless
- St John's - Southgate
- St Vincents Hospital
- Steroid Peer Education Project
- Travellers Aid Society of Victoria
- Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre
- Urban Seed
- Victorian Alcohol and Drug Association
- VicHealth
- Victoria Police
- Victoria University of Technology
- VivAids
- Whitehorse Community Health Service
- Yarra Drug and Health Forum
- Youth Projects Inc
- Youth Substance Abuse Service
- Youthlaw



Do you have a question for the Melbourne City Council? Call and speak to us.

9280 0716	አማርኛ
9280 0717	廣東話
9280 0718	Ελληνικά
9280 0719	Bahasa Indonesian
9280 0720	Italiano
9280 0721	國語
9280 0722	Somali
9280 0723	Español
9280 0724	Türkçe
9280 0725	Việt Ngã
9280 0726	All other languages
9280 0727	English



© City of Melbourne
April 2004
GPO Box 1603
Melbourne Victoria 3001

Hotline (03) 9658 9658
TTY (03) 9658 9461
enquiries@melbourne.vic.gov.au
www.melbourne.vic.gov.au