

How to set up a Needle and Syringe Program (NSP) in your service



Needle and syringe programs (NSP) provide sterile needles and syringes, health harm reduction information and important referrals for people who inject drugs. It prevents them and others from getting blood-borne viruses like HIV, hepatitis C and hepatitis B. NSPs also support safe disposal of used equipment.

The Sexual Health and Blood-borne Virus Program (SHBBVP) at the Department of Health coordinates the needle and syringe program across WA, including the supply of sterile needles and syringes for distribution by approved sites.

The SHBBVP can assist you to work through the application process. This will include:

- 1 Yarning with your team and community about the benefits of NSP services
- 2 Nominating an NSP coordinator
- 3 Determining opening hours and locations for your NSP
- 4 Completing an Application Form for approval of a Needle and Syringe Program.
- 5 Developing guidelines to inform staff how the NSP will operate
- 6 Submitting these documents to nsp@health.wa.gov.au

The NSPs can be provided in different ways depending on what would work best for your service. Things to consider:

- Would you like to assist clients face-to-face over the reception area?
- Could you have a dedicated room to facilitate the program?
- Do you need a confidential entry/exit to ensure client confidentiality?
- Would an outreach service be an option for your community?
- Would a needle and syringe dispensing machine be an option for your site?
- Would provision of needles and syringes during patient consults with a AHP or health worker work best for your community?

Talk to the team at the SHBBVP to discuss how your NSP could best meet the needs of people in your local community: nsp@health.wa.gov.au

The NSP Online Orientation and Training Package is a free online training package that will give you the rundown on how to effectively provide NSP.

Scan this QR code to access the training. Sign up for a password and then follow the prompts.



**Aboriginal
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