

Monday 10 December 2018

SAFETY FIRST SERVICE FOR NEEDLES AND SYRINGES

Residents and visitors to Narrandera can now safely dispose of community sharps at TerryWhite Chemmart located at 58 East Street, Narrandera.

Council and TerryWhite Chemmart have partnered to provide this free disposal service to those community members who rely on using needles, syringes and finger prick lancets to maintain their own health or that of a family member. Council would like to also sincerely acknowledge the previous long standing arrangement with Pathology West for providing their facility as a collection point for needles and syringes.

“People with medical conditions requiring self-injection in the home (such as diabetes, multiple sclerosis or renal failure) require a safe place to discard their needles and syringes. The availability of these disposal facilities is an important way to actively encourage both residents and visitors to the community to safely dispose of their community sharps,” Mayor Kschenka said.

With more people treating themselves in the home, Mayor Kschenka said people should ensure their community sharps are always kept secure and separate from other wastes. “Needles, syringes, and other equipment such as finger prick lancets that are used to treat medical conditions in the home should be placed into community sharps bins or other disposal services provided by public hospitals and other local councils.”

Because of the high risk of injury to workers and other community members community sharps should never be disposed of:

- In household waste or recycling bins (plastic syringes are NOT recyclable)
- In public litter bins
- By flushing down toilets or drains or by discarding into the environment

People who need to inject at home should:

- Use a sharps container or puncture resistant screw top plastic container (NOT glass)
- Store the container out of reach of children
- Seal the lid of the container when $\frac{3}{4}$ full and dispose of container in a community sharps disposal facility

While the risk of acquiring a serious infection as a result of an accidental injury from a community sharp is extremely low, the anxiety resulting from such an injury can be significant. Information on the safe disposal of sharps can be found by visiting <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/csm/Pages/disposal-options.aspx>.

MEDIA RELEASE



Sharps disposal at TerryWhite Chemmart.

END

Precis or Summary: Safety First Service For Needles And Syringes			
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