

Connecting the dots: facilitating a joined-up approach to needle and syringe programs in WA

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Needle and syringe programs (NSP) in WA

- ◆ Provide sterile injecting equipment to people who inject drugs.
- ◆ Reduce transmission of blood-borne viruses.
- ◆ Provide information, education, and referral.
- ◆ Coordinated at a statewide level by the Sexual Health and Blood-borne Virus Program (SHBBVP).

Barriers to service delivery

- ◆ Geographical distance between services, which can cause staff to feel isolated.
- ◆ Limited services in regional areas.
- ◆ Frequent turnover of staff.
- ◆ Community resistance to NSP.
- ◆ Limited access to training and development opportunities.

Western Australia



2.59 million people²



Approximately 20% live in regional areas²



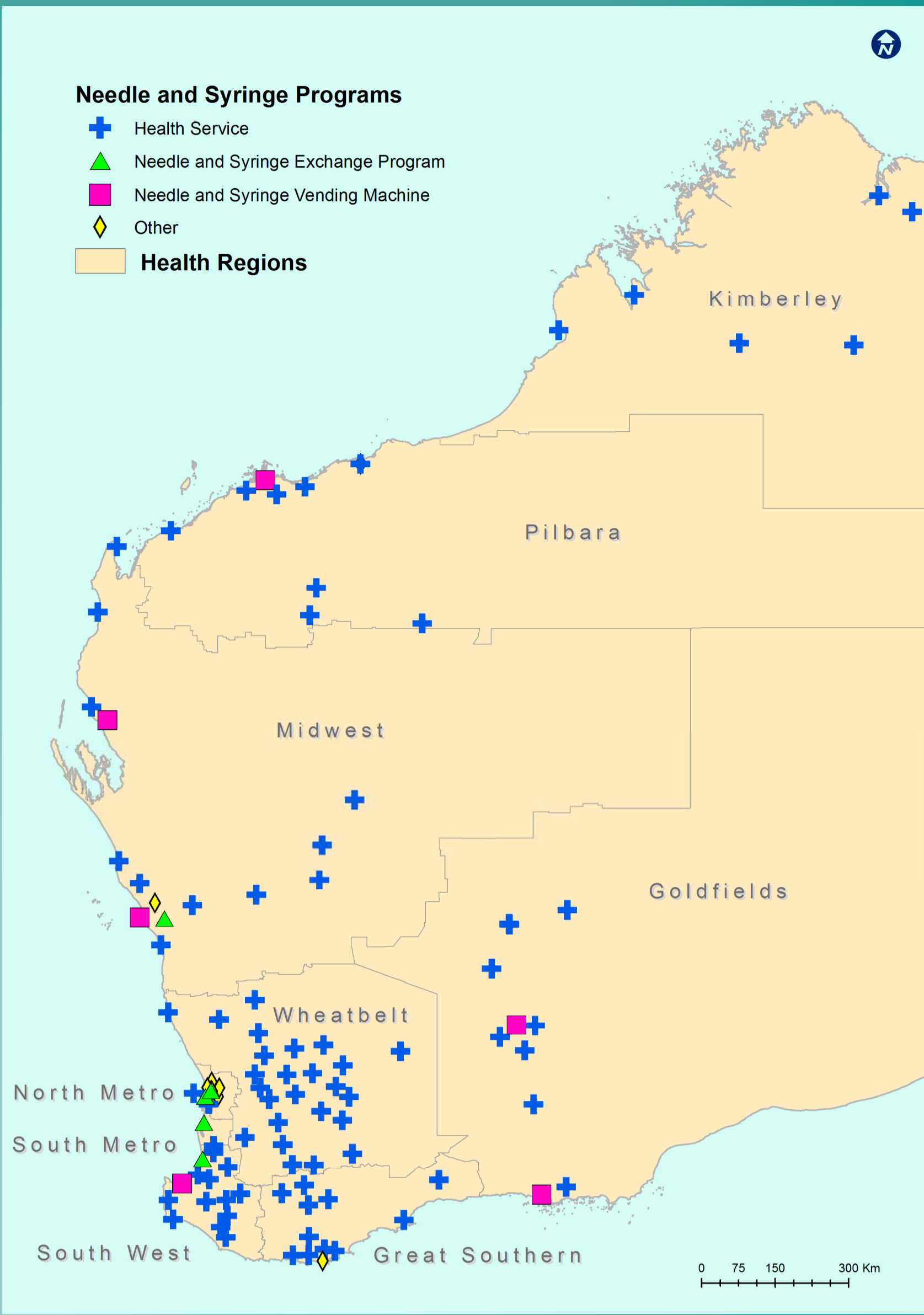
Area of 2.526 million square km³



1,151 hepatitis C notifications in 2014⁴



5.6 million needles and syringes distributed in 2015⁴

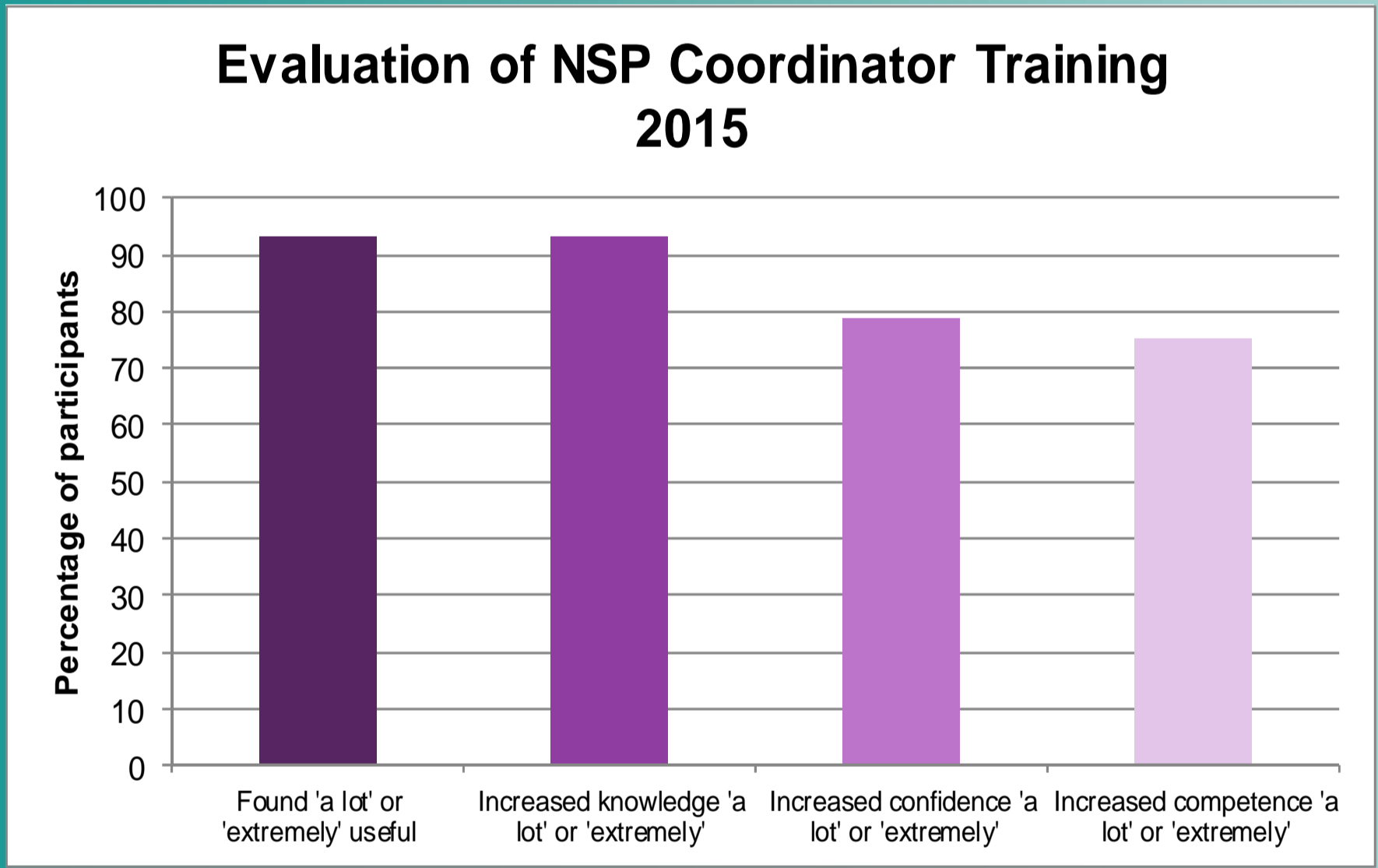


Face-to-face NSP Coordinator training

- ◆ Held annually (since 2001), in partnership with the Mental Health Commission.
- ◆ Approximately 30 participants from across WA attend.
- ◆ Provides an opportunity to build confidence and competence, develop skills, and network.

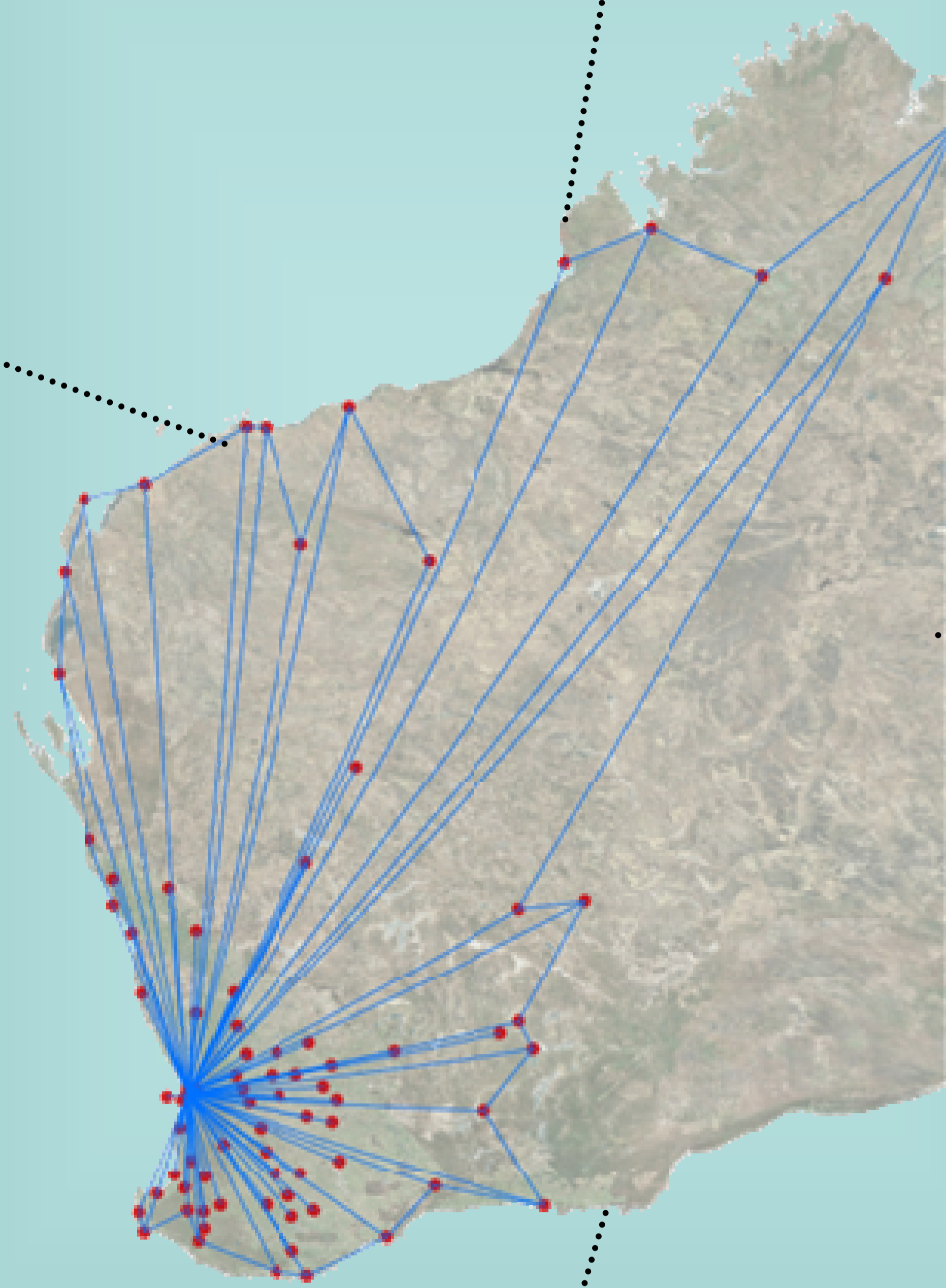


- ◆ Participants are able to pass on learning to colleagues.
- ◆ Evaluations demonstrate increased confidence and competence of participants.



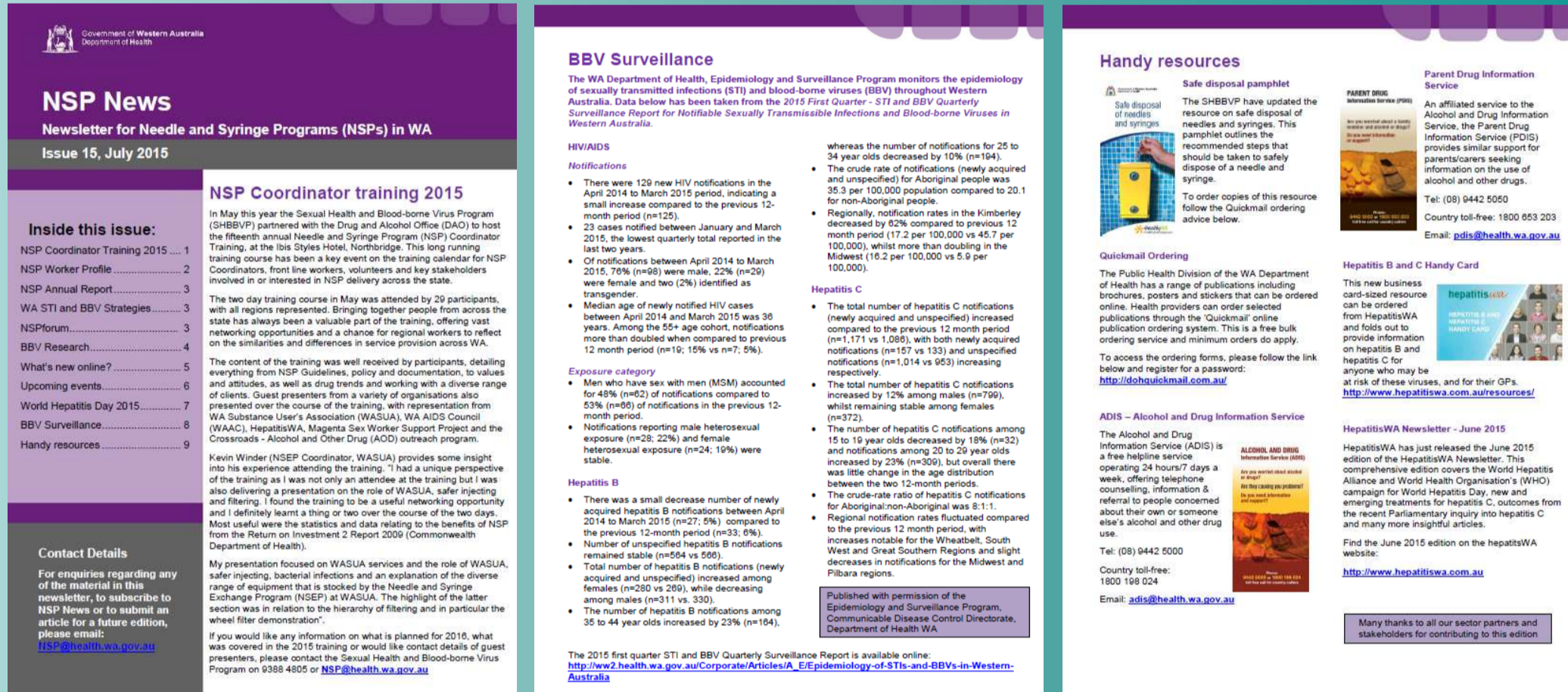
Regional NSP Coordinator videoconferences

- ◆ To facilitate discussions with and between regional NSP Coordinators.
- ◆ Provides a forum to share ideas and experiences.
- ◆ Allows staff who are geographically isolated to engage with their counterparts in other areas of WA.



NSP News

- ◆ Newsletter produced six-monthly by SHBBVP.
- ◆ Circulated to staff and other interested individuals across WA.
- ◆ Opportunity to share information and research, promote resources and training, and raise awareness of projects.

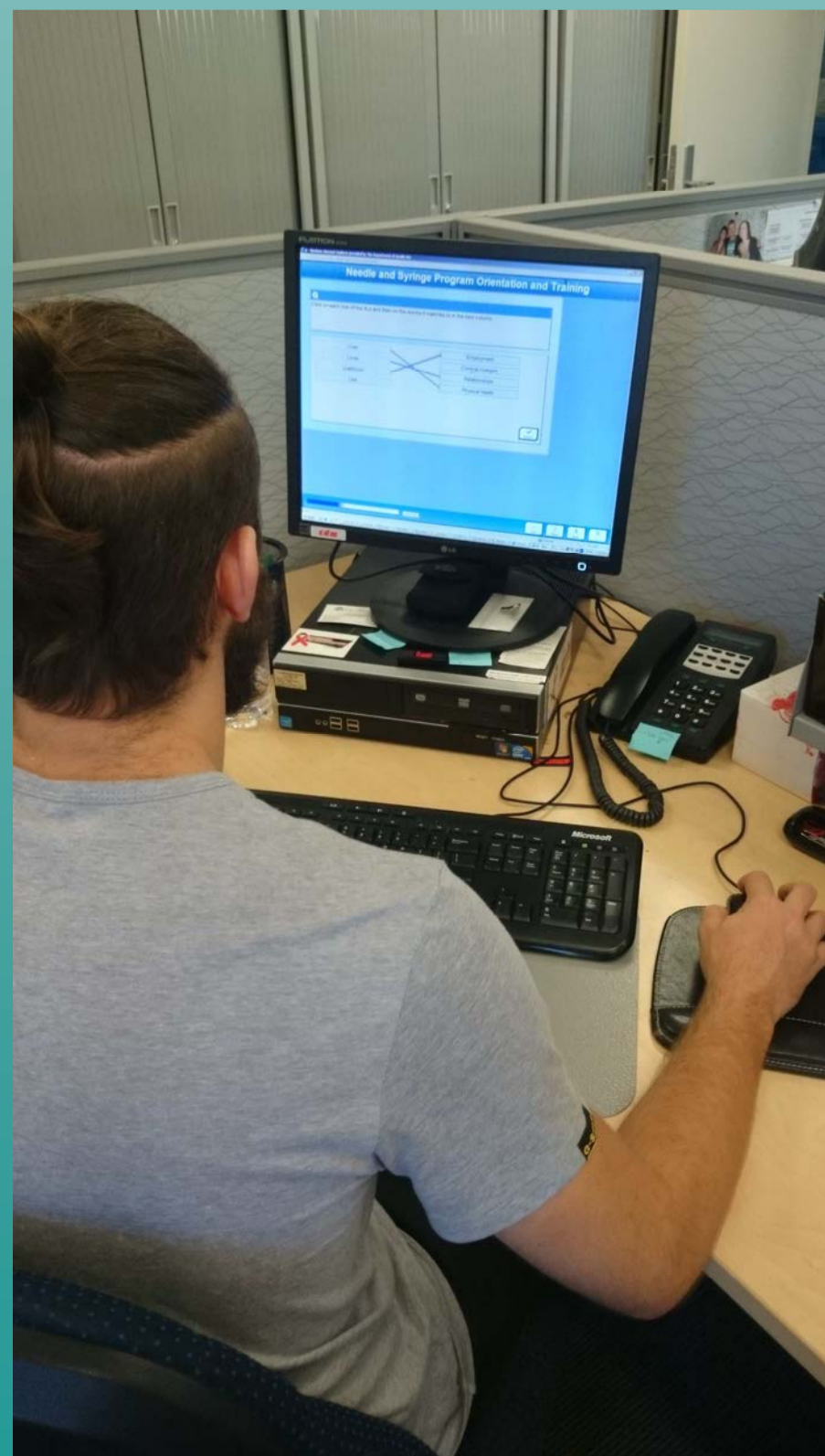
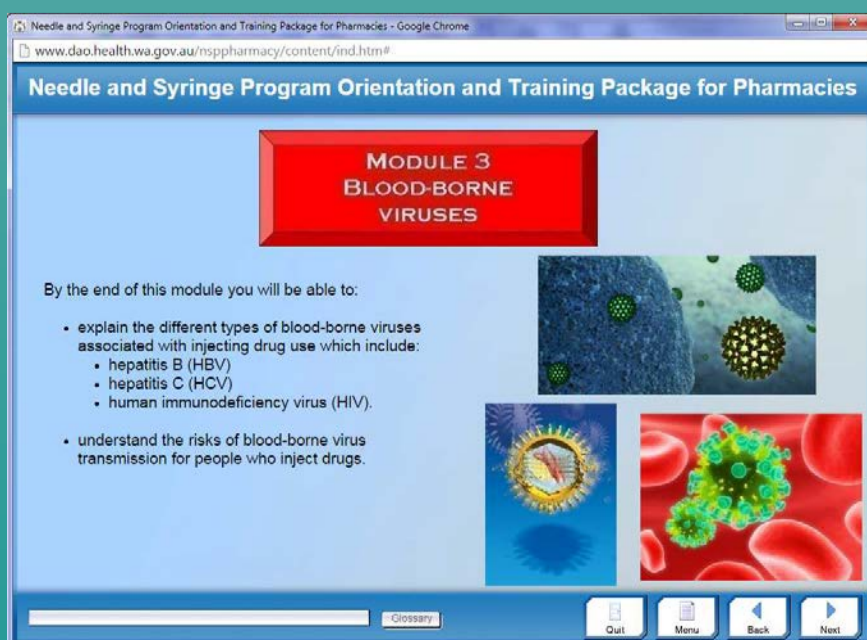
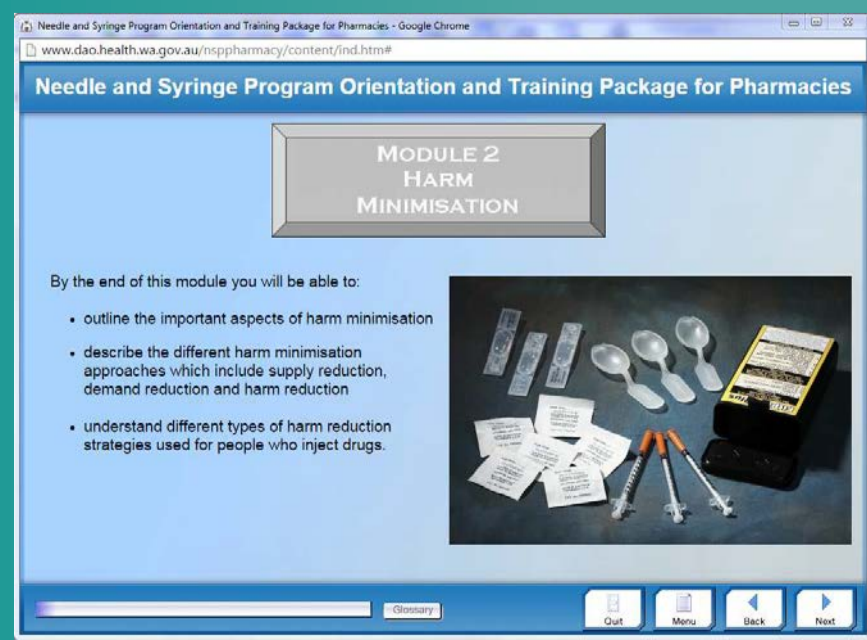
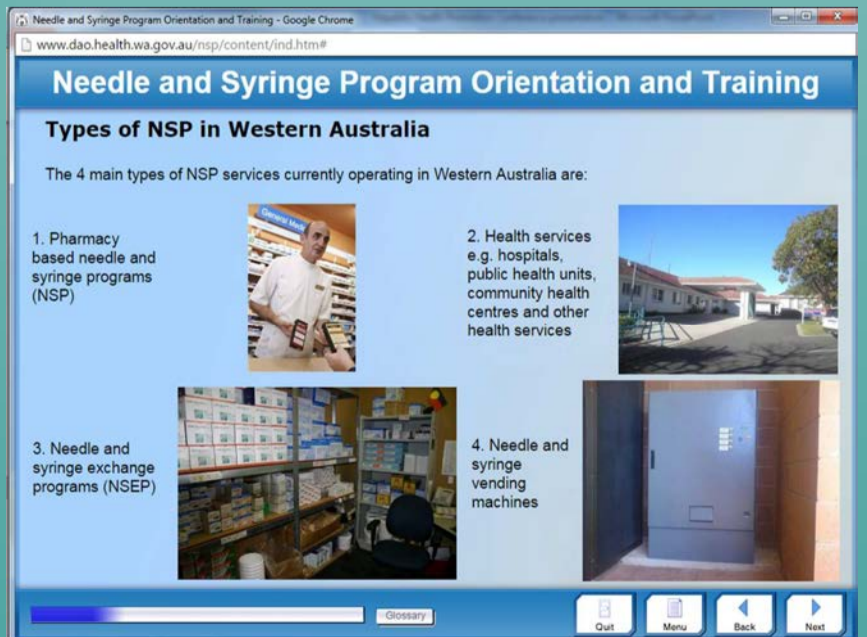
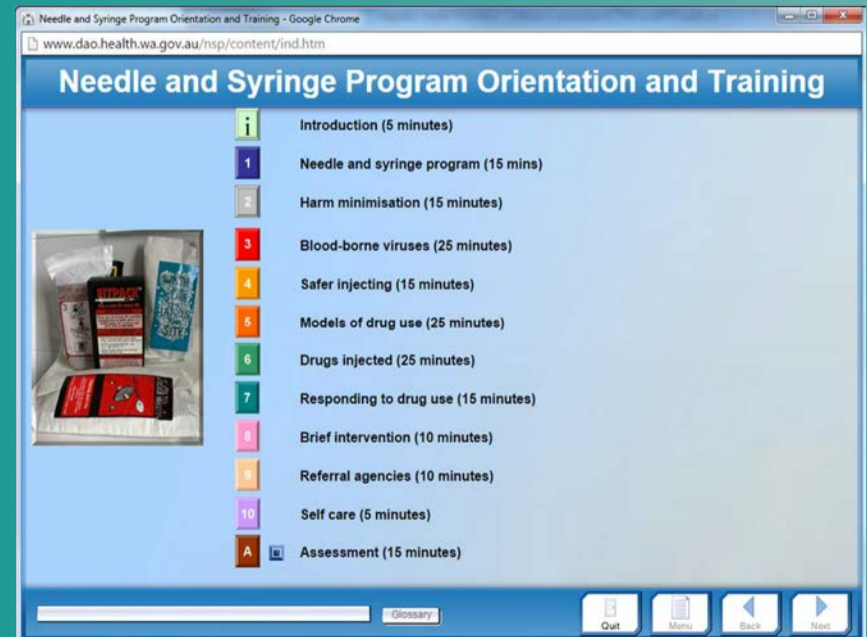


Articles include:

- ◆ NSP worker profiles from NSP staff around WA.
- ◆ information on training and resources.
- ◆ details of recent data, research, and evaluation.
- ◆ updates on new publications and reports.
- ◆ relevant news from around Australia e.g. new hepatitis C treatments.

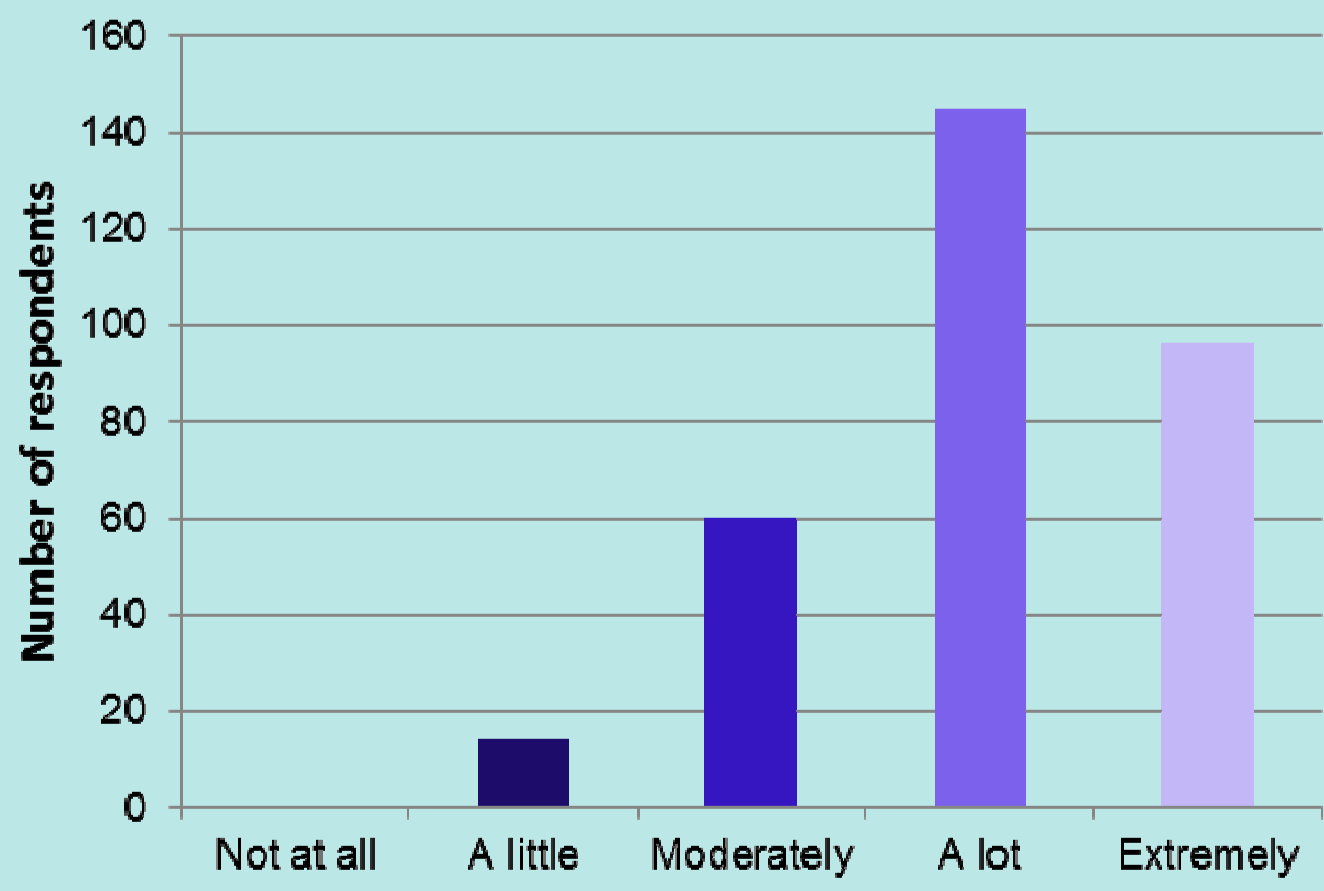
Online NSP Coordinator Orientation and Training Package

- ◆ Developed in partnership with the Mental Health Commission.
- ◆ Generic package for NSP staff, accredited by the Australian College of Nursing.
- ◆ Pharmacy package for pharmacy staff - currently working on accreditation through the Australian College of Pharmacy.

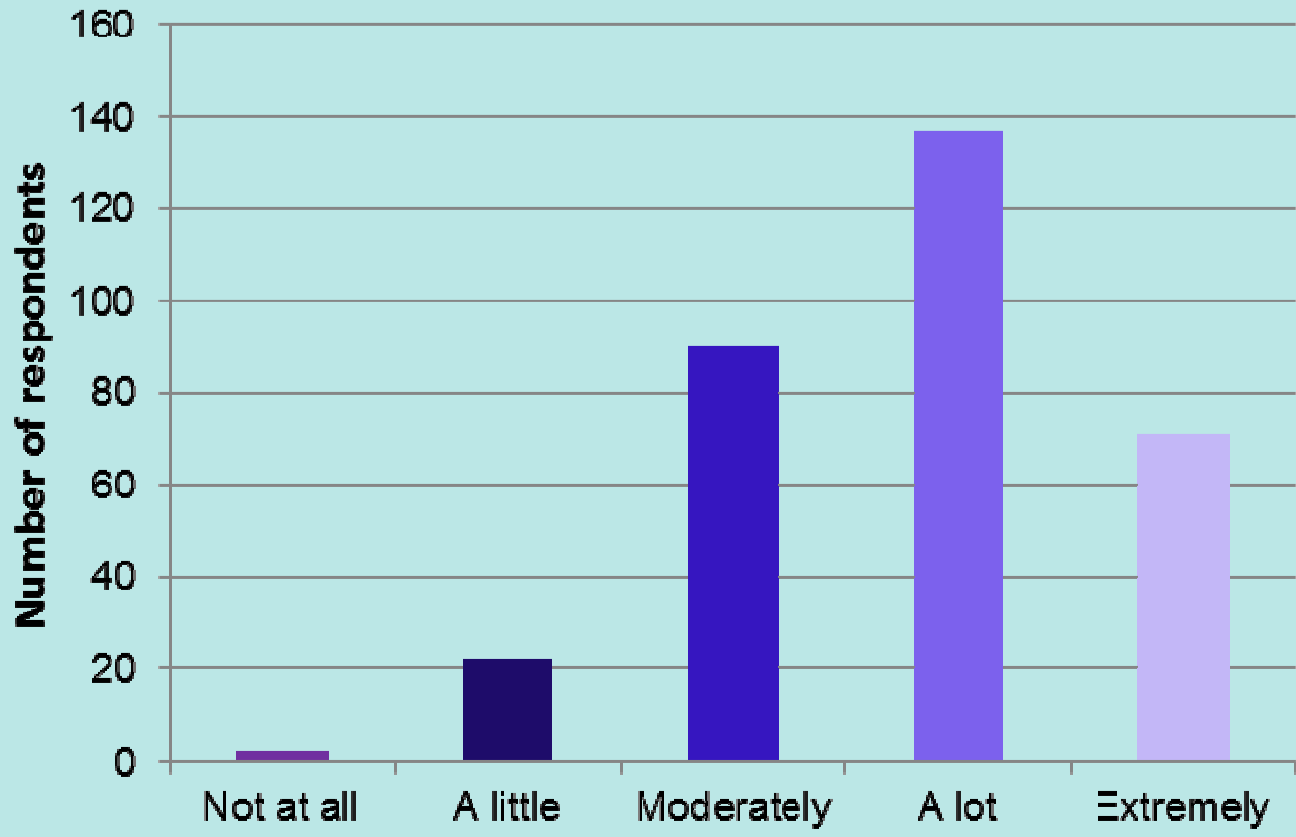


- ◆ As at May 2016, the generic package has been completed by 324 participants; with 82% being from regional areas.
- ◆ The pharmacy package has been completed by 173 participants.
- ◆ Evaluation of both packages reflects increased knowledge, confidence, and competence of staff.

Has the program been useful in relation to your work?



Do you think this program has increased your level of confidence in working in NSP?



Do you think this program has increased your level of competence in working in NSP?

