



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Health**

Increasing access to sterile injecting equipment through a Needle and Syringe Dispensing Machine



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Great Southern Population Health - Karen Lipio

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Needle and Syringe Program (NSP) Overview

- Public health measure to reduce the risk of transmission of blood borne viruses (BBV) amongst people who inject drugs (PWID).



Why NSDM?

- Free vend (dispense)
- Discreet access

Vendafit Compact C65 machine

- Easy to refill
- Can dispense a variety of packs/cylinders/containers
- Battery/mains power
- Child-proof mechanism



Katanning Trial	Dates
Literature review and proposal	June 2015
Katanning Hospital discussions	July 2015
NSDM supplier discussions	July 2015
Stakeholder information sessions/pre-survey	Aug 2015
Lease terms agreed – Vendafit	Sept 2015
Installation	Oct 2015
Commencement of trial	12 months
6 month extension of trial	to May 2017
Conclusion of trial and evaluation	May - Aug 2017

Evaluation

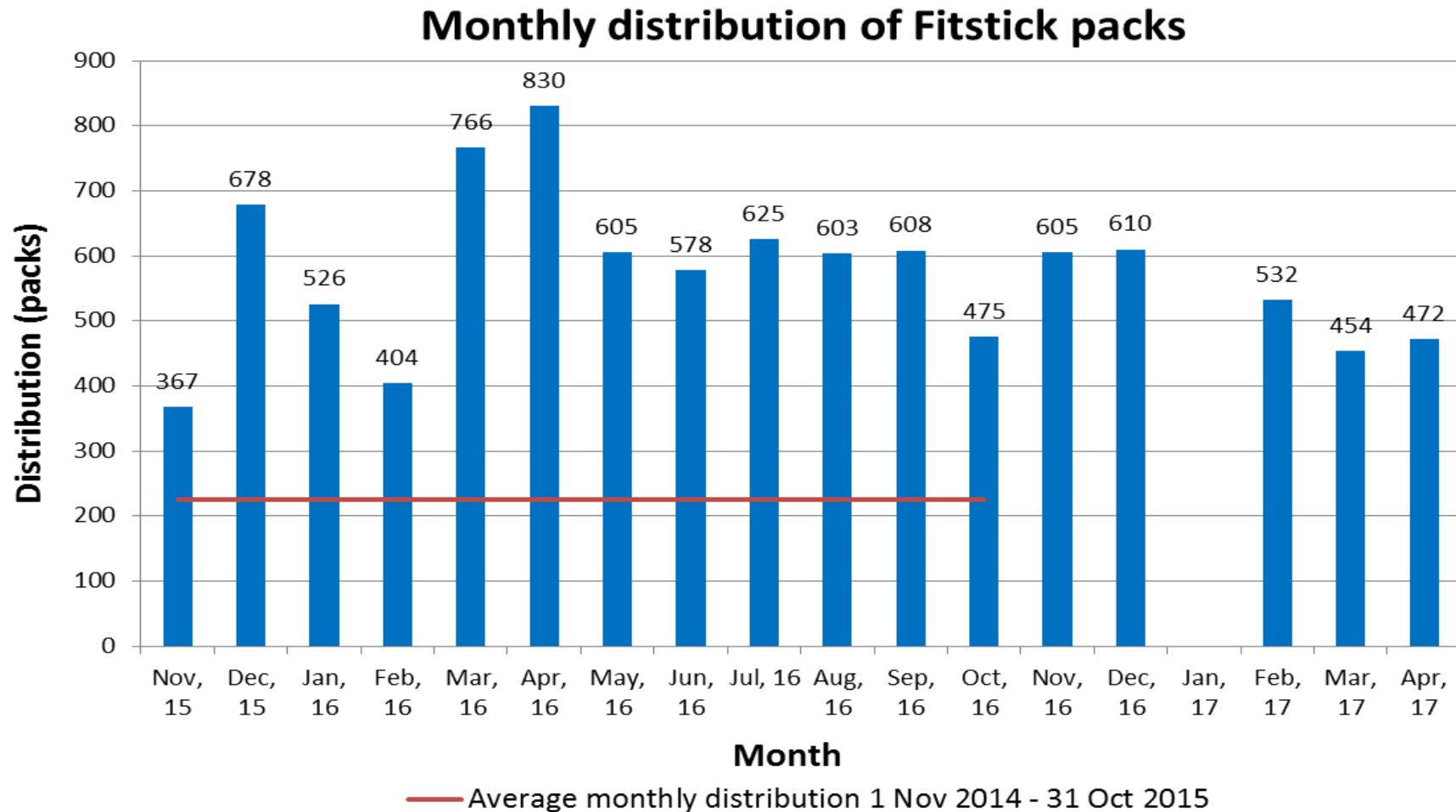
1. Pre and post-installation surveys
2. Distribution records maintained
3. Log book records
4. Anecdotal client feedback



Post trial survey – Key findings

- Post survey completed by 25 staff members
- 48% satisfied with NSDM operation, 28% unsure, 24% not satisfied
- The vast majority of respondents (78%) indicated that clients felt more comfortable utilising this service method (noted anecdotally)
- 26 positive aspects were identified including:
 - client privacy and anonymity
 - contributes to harm reduction
 - contributes to infection control
 - free access for everyone/clients at risk
 - saves time vs dealing with clients face-to-face
 - less people presenting at main reception for a Fitstick pack
 - makes it easier for clients and health workers alike.

Distribution



Issues and challenges

- From survey:
 - staff and clients unsure how to operate the machine
 - clients injecting on site
 - client aggression and inappropriate behaviour if packs were not available from the NSDM
- Operational log-book:
 - battery power issues
 - security lock and cage deemed to be un-necessary
 - access issues (not wheelchair friendly, NSDM out of Fitstick packs at times)
 - Location issue – need good access to reception or A and E

Recommendations

Recommendations made by SHBBVP

1. NSDM should remain on site at Katanning Hospital
2. A suitable site is identified for permanent placement after hospital redevelopment
3. A scope of work document is created that identifies roles of all staff involved
4. All staff are offered up-to-date training on the facilitation of NSDM and NSP in general
5. Innovative methods to engage with clients via brief intervention should be investigated
6. Needle and syringe disposal options should be explored throughout the community, including client education

Thanks to

- Karen Lipio and GS Population Health
- Katanning Hospital staff
- HepatitisWA

Any Questions???

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