



peer based
harm reduction wa

(formerly WASUA)

Evaluation of 'Harm Reduction Packs'

Meeting the needs of local street based NSEP consumers

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Acknowledgement to Culture & Country



I would like to acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet, the Nyoongar People, and pay my respects to their Elders, past and present.

ABOUT Peer Based Harm Reduction WA

Peer education can come in three specific forms:

- Organic or spontaneous
- Semi structured peer education
- Formal Peer education

ABOUT Peer Based Harm Reduction WA cont...

What is a peer?

- All illicit drug users are peers
- However, all illicit drug users are not treated the same way:
 - people who inject are not treated the same way as people who smoke or snort
 - the dance scene is very different to the street scene
 - Injecting users face a much higher level of harm and discrimination associated with their drug use
- When it comes down to being a peer these differences are very important

ABOUT Peer Based Harm Reduction WA cont...

Harm Reduction

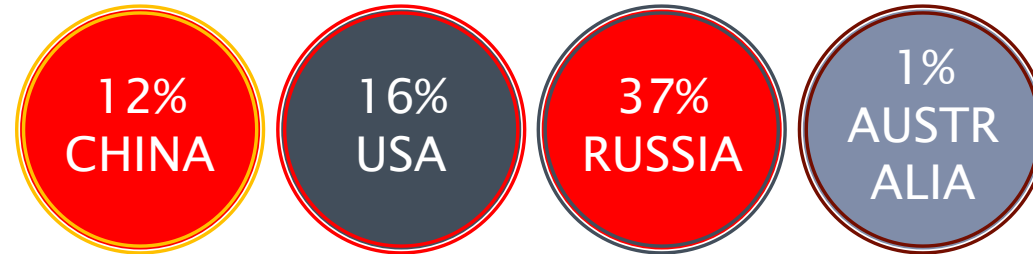


ABOUT Peer Based Harm Reduction WA cont...

The Achievements of Harm Reduction

Harm Reduction also benefits the **whole community**, as well as respecting people's choices and enhancing our ability to have more control over our health

HIV prevalence among people who use drugs



Between 2000 and 2009, the Australian Government...

...spent **\$243 million** on Needle and Syringe Programs.

...this prevented an estimated **32,000 HIV** and **97,000 hep C** infections.

... which saved **\$1.2 billion** in direct healthcare costs.

...if patient costs and productivity gains/losses are included, the community saved **\$5.8 billion**

For every \$1 invested in NSPs, \$27 was returned to Australian tax payers

1 fitpack = \$100 saving!

Harm Reduction Packs

- Harm reduction health promotion initiative
- Meeting the needs of street based consumers
- Improved engagement with local priority populations



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Background

- Relocation to new premises
- Pre-existing safe disposal issues
- Large local street based population
- Change in demographic of consumers

Needs Assessment

- Pre-packed equipment often does not meet the needs of consumers
- Often wastage and/or not enough of what the consumer needs
- Local street based consumer need a discrete pack with a harm reduction focus



Harm Reduction Pack Contents

<u>Cotton Wool Pack</u>	<u>Sterifilt Pack</u>
To be used when: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A consumer is not familiar with sterifilts; and • There is no opportunity for a filtering intervention 	To be used when: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A consumer is familiar with sterifilts; or • You are able to do a filtering intervention
Contents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 x BD 1ml syringes • 1 x Sterile Cotton • 1 x 2ml Sterile Water • 1 x Plastic Spoon • 10 x Swabs • 1 x NSEP / Clinic Flyer 	Contents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 x BD 1ml syringes • 2 x Sterifilt • 1 x 2ml Sterile Water • 1 x Plastic Spoon • 10 x Swabs • 1 x NSEP / Clinic Flyer



Evaluation

Consumer Feedback

- 87.5% of consumers reported that the Harm Reduction pack encouraged them to return their used equipment to the Needle & Syringe Exchange Program (NSEP) at Peer Based Harm Reduction WA
- 96% of consumers who responded to the questionnaire reported that the Harm Reduction pack met their needs
- 46% of consumers who accessed Harm Reduction Packs were Aboriginal

Consumer Comments

“This was the first time that I had used equipment to return because I used the black bag for my used equipment”

“All together a fine package”



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Evaluation

Oct 17 to Mar 18	# of Packs	# of ATSI PWID	% ATSI PWID
NSEP	1,824	813	45%
Outreach	124	78	63%
Total	1,948	891	46%

Anecdotaly:

- The introduction of Harm Reduction Packs has not contributed to local safe disposal issues
- Consumers now request packs by name and are familiar with the name and branding

AOD Excellence Award

In March 2018, Peer Based Harm Reduction WA were the winner of an AOD Excellence Award in the Aboriginal category for Harm Reduction Packs

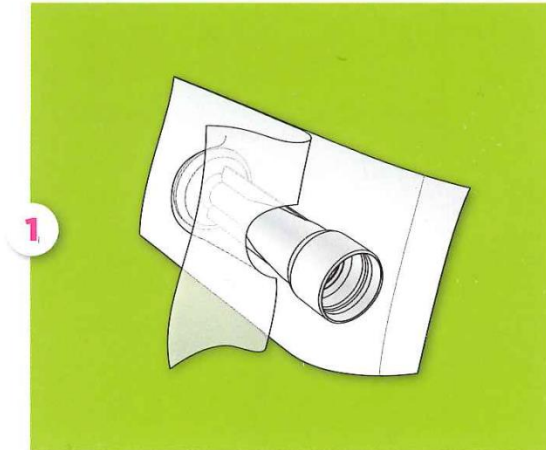


Where to from here?

- Addition of disposal sleeve
- WA Unisharp syringe trial
- Evaluation plan in development
- Survey of consumers for continuous improvement

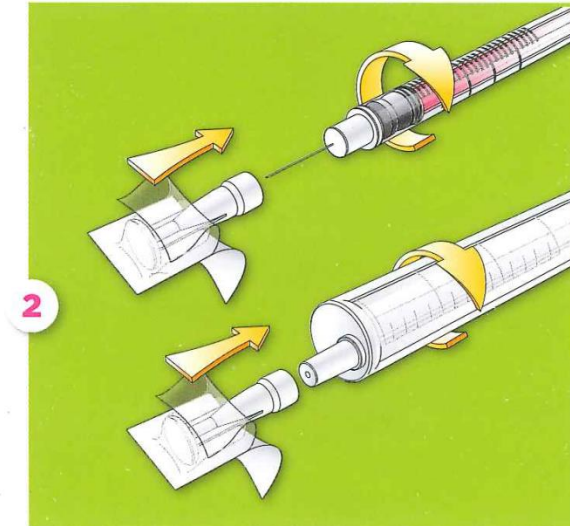
Questions...

instructions for use



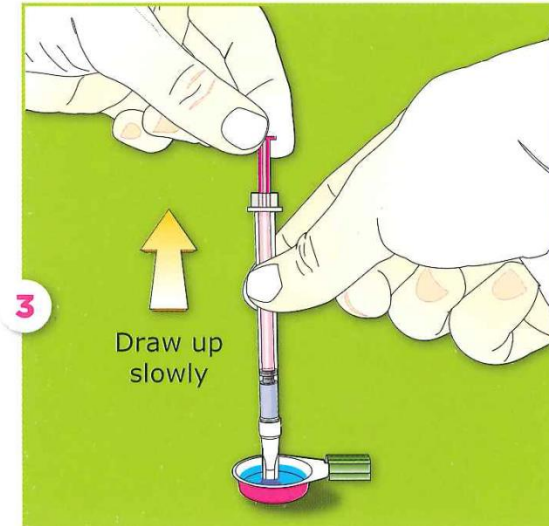
- Wash your hands and injection site.
- Prepare your drugs.
- Open the Sterifilt's blister, take care **not to touch the membrane.**

The Sterifilt is **compatible with virtually all fixed needle syringes and ALL syringes for detachable needles.**



- Attach the Sterifilt to the syringe. If you use a syringe without attached needle, the Sterifilt fits where the needle goes.
- Push and twist the Sterifilt onto the syringe to obtain a firm, airtight seal.

It eliminates 93% of all insoluble particles of over 10µm. The Sterifilt is for personal and **single use**: if re-used, filtration will be less effective and not recommended.



- **Slowly pull back the plunger.** Otherwise, you'll just draw up air.
- **Desinfect the injection site.**
- Remove the Sterifilt from the syringe.

It **retains 5 times less** active drug than a cotton filter and reduces the risks associated with the reuse and sharing of filters, such as hepatitis C.



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