

# Sharps

## drop-off points

### Armidale

- Coles Carpark • Kmart Carpark • Cinders Lane
- Armidale Hospital  
(western carpark & adjacent to NSP Vending Machine)

### Bingara

- 94 Maitland Street
- Bingara Pharmacy, 42 Maitland Street

### Glen Innes

- Glen Innes Hospital (located at Emergency entrance)

### Gunnedah

- Venardos Carpark, Little Barber Street
- McAndrew Park, Wandobah Road
- Gunnedah Hospital (located near Ambulance Bay)

### Inverell

- Coles Carpark • 16 Waratah Street
- Ditton's Pharmacy, 77 Byron Street
- Inverell Hospital (located at Emergency Department)

### Moree

- Moree Hospital (located at Community Health & adjacent to NSP Vending Machine)

### Narrabri

- Narrabri Hospital (located at Emergency Department)

### Quirindi

- Loader Street, Quirindi (Rose Lee Park toilets)
- Quirindi Hospital (located at front entrance)
- Quirindi Pharmacy, 206 George Street

### Tamworth

- Council carpark in Kable Avenue (adjacent Hands of Fame Park)
- Council carpark at rear of Robert Street Shopping Village (Petra Avenue entrance)
- Tamworth Base Hospital (Located at Emergency Department entrance and Diabetic Centre Carpark)
- Coledale Community Centre

### Tingha

- Community Health MPS, Inverell Rd

### Uralla

- Uralla Landfill & Recycling Centre

### Warialda

- 22 Hope Street • Warialda Pharmacy, 36 Hope Street

### Werris Creek

- Single Street, Werris Creek (adjacent Railway St toilets)
- Werris Creek Pharmacy, 62 Single Street

Please note: All public hospitals will accept community sharps for disposal. Please present them in an appropriate container.

For more information contact  
your local Council or  
Northern Inland Regional Waste  
on (02) 6767 5449  
[www.nirw.org.au](http://www.nirw.org.au)

northern inland regional waste  
**NIRW**

NSW HEALTH

Northern Inland Regional Waste (NIRW) is a voluntary regional waste group comprising 13 member Councils in the New England and North West Region. This information has been compiled as part of NIRW's Community Sharps Management Program, with the support of NSW Health.

Be a community sharps  
**Safety Stickler**

with all used syringes, needles and lancets



BD's "Spike the Echidna" reproduced with the permission of Becton Dickinson and Company



# DisposalSafe

## Needle & Syringe Disposal

How to dispose of used SHARPS correctly

What to do if you find SHARPS

What to do if you get a needle stick injury



## What are community sharps?

Many people rely on using needles and syringes to maintain their own health or that of a family member. Injecting equipment is also used by people who inject drugs, and for animal healthcare by pet and livestock owners.

Community sharps is the name used to describe needles, syringes, lancets and similar equipment resulting from these activities. Community sharps are generated in the community, and not in a hospital or clinical environment.

Community sharps should always be kept secure and separate from other wastes.

## How to dispose of used sharps correctly

### IF YOU INJECT AT HOME YOU SHOULD:

- Use a sharps container or other appropriate puncture resistant container (NOT glass)
- When your container is  $\frac{3}{4}$  full, secure the lid and deliver it to a Sharps Drop-Off Point listed in this brochure or a Needle and Syringe Program outlet.
- Store container out of reach of children.

### IF YOU INJECT AWAY FROM HOME YOU SHOULD:

- Place all your injecting material in a sharps bin/chute in a public toilet or any other place that has a sharps bin; or
- Place all your injecting material in a sharps or other appropriate container and deliver it to a Sharps Drop-Off Point listed in this brochure or a Needle and Syringe Program outlet.

## Local businesses

Business operators can facilitate safe disposal and safeguard the health of employees, customers and waste workers by:

- Installing community sharps disposal bins in public toilets and restrooms, and
- Arranging for a contractor licensed to transport sharps waste to remove all community sharps generated or collected on the premises.

## Remember

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

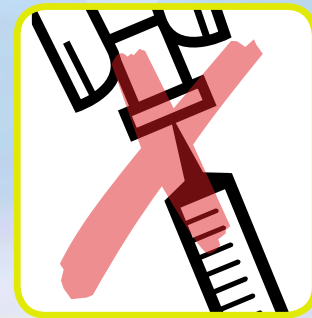
- in household waste or recycling bins (plastic syringes are NOT recyclable)
- in public litter bins
- by flushing down toilets or drains
- by discarding into the environment.



## What to do if you find used sharps

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.

**If you find a syringe in a public place help to protect your community by calling the Needle Clean Up Hotline on 1800 NEEDLE or 1800 633 353.**



## What to do if you get a needlestick injury

Do not squeeze the wound. Wash the wound with soap and water and apply a sterile dressing.

Immediately contact your Doctor or go to the Emergency Department of your local Hospital or contact the PEP (Post Exposure Prophylaxis) Hotline on 1800 737 669 (24 hours).