

# Sharps Program

WALGA





# Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners

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WALGA's work regularly takes us across the State and as such we would like to acknowledge the many traditional owners of the land on which we work throughout Western Australia.

We pay our respects to their Elders, past and present.

Pictured left: Artwork by Jade Dolman, a young Whadjuk/Ballardong Nyoongar, Eastern Arrernte, Irish woman from Perth.



WALGA

# The Problem

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Sharps are not always disposed of **appropriately**....

Appropriate means into a sharps container and disposed of as medical waste.

Inappropriate disposal leads to:

- Public health risk
- Litter problem
- Work Health and Safety issue
- Waste management problems



WALGA

# The Program

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Aim to increase the number of public place sharps disposal options

- Funding from Department of Health to WALGA
- Sought Expression of Interest from Local Government
- Bulk Procurement of Sharps Containers and signage
- Locations for Sharps Containers uploaded on DoH website, so central source of information



# The Program

## What we achieved

- 23 Local Governments installed 285 sharps units across WA
- Shires of Dandaragan, Jerramungup, Esperance, Boddington, Bridgetown-Greenbushes, Chittering, Collie, Cuballing, Derby-West Kimberley, Dowerin, Dundas, Trayning, Waroona, Wickepin, Williams, Wongan Ballidu and Woodanilling
- Cities of Belmont, Fremantle, Greater Geraldton, Kalgoorlie Boulder and Karratha
- Town of Mosman Park
- Mainly in public toilets



# Sharps still an issue

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- Some sites are experiencing ongoing vandalism of the units
- 3 units washed away in Derby floods....
- This is only part of the solution.
- We need pharmacy take back options and products stewardship for these products – so end of life management is fully funded and there is clear pathway for all users.



**Thank you**

I am also happy to talk about nangs and vapes if prompted...

