

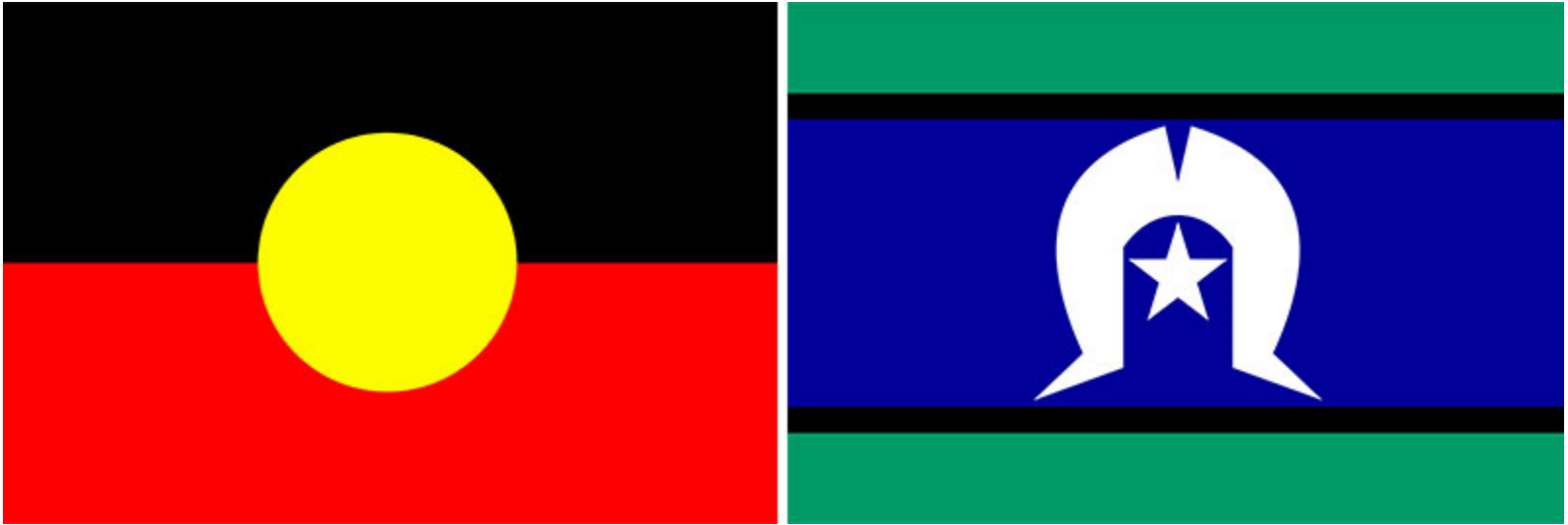


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NSP presentation, 8 June 2023  
Goulburn Valley Health  
Joint Addiction and Mental Health  
Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes

# Acknowledgement of Country



# About Penington Institute

*Penington Institute connects lived experience and research to improve the management of drugs through community engagement and knowledge sharing.*

*A not-for-profit organisation, our focus is supporting cost-effective approaches that maximise community health and safety in relation to drugs including pharmaceuticals and alcohol.*

*Penington Institute is the convenor of International Overdose Awareness Day; a campaign to end overdose, remember without stigma those who have died and acknowledge the grief of the family and friends left behind.*



# Learning & Development for the NSP Workforce

Penington Institute offers *NSP 101* training

Learning outcomes include an understanding of:

- The historical development and policy framework of NSPs
- The NSP Guidelines and related Policies & Procedures
- Key knowledge areas, including: NSP equipment, HCV testing & treatment, overdose and naloxone

# History of Needle and Syringe Programs

- Est. in Australia in 1986 in response to the risk of HIV associated with people who inject drugs
- BBV focus sustained by prevalence of hepatitis C.
- Fixed-site, outreach, secure dispensing units (SDUs).
- In June 2020:
  - 104 primary
  - 811 secondary NSPs
  - 2,867 pharmacy NSPs
  - 377 Secure Dispensing Units (SDUs)
- 2019/20, 57.8 million needles and syringes were distributed in Australia to an estimated 75,756 regular PWID in Australia.

# National policy framework: NSPs and Harm Minimisation



# The role of NSPs



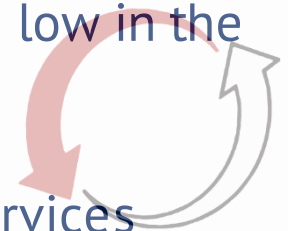
A confidential and anonymous service that provides:

- Sterile injecting equipment (needles, syringes and disposal container).
- Safer sex products.
- Information on keeping healthy and reducing the health risks of injecting.
- A location for the return of used needles and syringes, including where possible, facilities for 24-hour disposal.

# Objectives for NSP

*To increase access to sterile injecting equipment to eliminate the reusing or sharing of equipment*

- One of the most successful and cost-effective public health strategies ever implemented in Australia
- Estimated that for every dollar invested in NSPs, \$4 are returned in health care cost services in the short term
- Reducing BBV transmission and keeping the viral load low in the community
- Early intervention opportunity— referrals to multiple services
- Keeping people as healthy and connected as possible
- Support and care





# Victorian NSP Policy framework and practice guidelines



- Department of Health Guidelines currently under review
- Guidelines link with legislation:
  - *Drugs Poisons and Controlled Substances Amendment Act 2021* (decriminalised secondary NSP supply)
- Guidelines link with organisational policy & procedure:
  - Know the scope of your organisation's practice
  - Know the service linkages within your catchment
  - OHS and needle stick injury incident reporting
  - Processes for ordering stock (Mailforce)
  - Processes for data collection (new NSP portal launched 1 Oct 2022)



# NSP Handbook Resource

Information for NSP workers

Information for NSP  
coordinators

## NSP HANDBOOK



[Link to NSP Handbook](#)



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