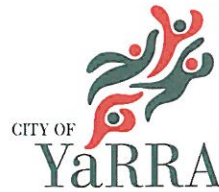


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11 March 2014

Ms Robyn Dwyer, Mr Robert Power & Mr Paul Dietze
85 Commercial Road
Melbourne 3004 Victoria

Dear Ms Dwyer, Mr Power & Mr Dietze

Acknowledgement of recommendations: North Richmond Public Injecting Impact Study

Council thanks you for your work around the North Richmond Public Injecting Impact Study and welcomes the actions recommended in the report.

Council has reviewed the recommendations and outlines its response to the thirteen recommendations below. Council supports or has taken action across all thirteen recommendations.

- **Recommendation 1:** Extend the hours and coverage of needle syringe provision to ensure 24 hour access.
- **Recommendation 2:** Assess the feasibility of locating syringe vending machines at key public injecting sites in the City of Yarra.
- **Recommendation 3:** Advocate for changes to be made to policy and law, and funding provided, to support peer-distribution of sterile injecting equipment.
- **Recommendation 4:** Support and fund a peer-administered naloxone program.

Council is committed to strategically advocating for the implementation of additional harm reduction strategies in Yarra as a means of improving public amenity and increasing perceptions of safety, and reducing drug related harm.

- **Recommendation 5:** Council continue to provide routine daily hand-collection street-sweeps for discarded needle syringes and other injecting litter.
- **Recommendation 6:** Needle syringe disposal bins are regularly monitored to ensure they are available for disposal of needle syringes.

Council contracts Innerspace (North Yarra Community Health) to conduct syringe disposal services; they regularly sweep streets and laneways across the municipality. Council will continue to provide a responsive clean-up service, comprising daily sweeps to collect drug litter, such as discarded needles and syringes.

Syringe disposal units are located throughout the City of Yarra to minimise discarded syringes and related drug paraphernalia. This is important in maintaining the public health and amenity of the area through encouraging waste disposal. Council will continue to monitor, empty and maintain syringe disposal units across the municipality to ensure they are available for the disposal of needles and syringes.

- **Recommendation 7:** Council consider installing larger needle syringe disposal bins where feasible.

Council supports this recommendation.

- **Recommendation 8:** Council continue to support and facilitate intersectoral collaboration on drug and public health related issues.

Council works closely with the alcohol and other drug sector on health-based initiatives to create healthier outcomes for people who use drugs and wider community.

Council will continue to support such public health-based initiatives through funding and involvement in planning and implementation of initiatives.

- **Recommendation 9:** All police support and implement the Victoria Police Operating Procedures for Needle Syringe Programs (NSPs), thereby minimising police presence in the vicinity of the North Richmond Community Health NSP.

Council supports this recommendation.

- **Recommendation 10:** All police support and implement the Victoria Police Police Attendance at Incidents of Drug Overdose Policy and minimise their presence at overdose incidents.

Council supports this recommendation.

- **Recommendation 11:** Police continue to support diversion of drug offenders away from the criminal justice sector.

Council supports this recommendation.

- **Recommendation 12:** North Richmond Community Health continue to encourage PWID in appropriate behaviours around public injecting, disposal of injecting equipment and other nuisance behaviours.

Council supports this recommendation.

- **Recommendation 13:** Explore strategies for the introduction of a supervised injecting facility (SIF) as a viable component of a comprehensive harm reduction response to illicit drug use.

In April 2013, Council reiterated its support for the implementation of a trial supervised injecting facility in the City of Yarra.

Should you require further information please feel free to contact Sarah Jaggard, Policy Advisor, Community Health & Safety on ph 9205 5160 or on sarah.jaggard@yarracity.vic.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Sarah Jaggard
Policy Advisor, Community Health & Safety

cc.