

BUTTERFLIES AND BARRELS:

Provision of Winged Infusion Sets and Large Syringes in the Kirketon Road Centre (KRC) Needle and Syringe Program (NSP)

Located in Kings Cross and in Caringbah, Sydney, Australia

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ABOUT THE KIRKETON ROAD CENTRE (KRC)

KRC was established in Kings Cross, Sydney, in 1987. Founded in response to the emerging HIV/AIDS epidemic, KRC provides comprehensive health and support services, with a focus on harm reduction. A branch “KRC South” operates in Sutherland Hospital (Caringbah). Clients can access Needle Syringe Program (NSP), nurses, doctors (at Kings Cross), counselling, and other support services at KRC.

Whom does KRC serve? Our priority groups are people who inject drugs (PWID), people experiencing homelessness, people who engage in sex work, at risk young people under 25 experiencing the above, and people in urgent need of HIV / Hepatitis care.

What does our NSP service consist of? KRC provides NSP via three primary NSPs, 22 secondary outlets, 11 Automatic Dispensing Machines (ADM's) and six days of outreach.

KRC's BUTTERFLY PACKS

KRC prepares packs containing:

- ▶ 10 butterflies
- ▶ 20 x 10ml barrels
- ▶ Harm Reduction information developed by NUAA and KRC



The packs are distributed through our primary NSP, mobile delivery services and local Opiate Agonist Therapy (OAT) programs across the South Eastern Local Health district.

HOW DID THE BUTTERFLY PROGRAM START?

“Butterflies” and “barrels” are **injecting equipment suitable for methadone injection**.

In 2023, for the first time in 20 years, the NSW NSP Guidelines were updated allowing for the provision of winged infusion sets (butterflies) and larger volume syringes (barrels) for distribution across NSW.



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

By collaboration, capacity building, and resource development, we ensured NSP Guideline changes could be integrated into statewide service delivery.

- ▶ KRC collaborated with the Uniting Medically Supervised Injecting Centre (MSIC) to deliver an **Online Masterclass for NSP workers** educating on methadone and injecting with winged infusion sets.
- ▶ **KRC and Uniting MSIC co-produced a comprehensive medical training video** to equip harm reduction workers from NSW with updated harm reduction health education and safer injecting information.
- ▶ KRC engaged with the **NSW Users and AIDS Association (NUAA)** who developed a **peer-resource by consumers for consumers**. KRC distributed this resource to our clients with our butterfly packs.



With increased confidence, NSP and harm reduction workers can more effectively engage people who use butterflies and larger barrels in health education discussions on each occasion of service.

EFFECTIVENESS AND CLIENT FEEDBACK

Butterfly and larger barrel distribution commenced in April 2023 from KRC's two primary NSP sites and via KRC outreach.

As of September 2024, we have distributed over **10,500 butterflies and larger barrels** to clients. We have **provided harm reduction information via face-to-face engagement and flyers**.

- ▶ We have received overwhelmingly **positive feedback** from our clients.
- ▶ **OAT programs have provided enthusiastic support** and commenced distribution of our butterfly packs through their services.
- ▶ There has been **no evidence of butterflies being unsafely discarded** in public places.

In a brief survey of n=17 KRC clients who obtained butterfly packs from us, clients indicated **their health and safety has improved** and they now visit NSPs more.

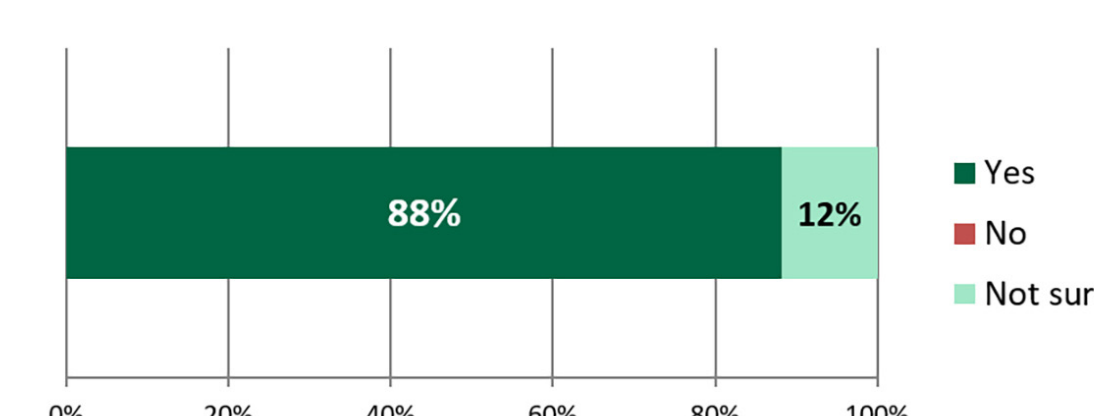
“NSPs have **finally included** people that use butterflies as part of the community.”

“Having butterflies at the NSP has stopped me from having to buy them and stopped me having to reuse old ones until they are so blunt – they do more damage than good!”

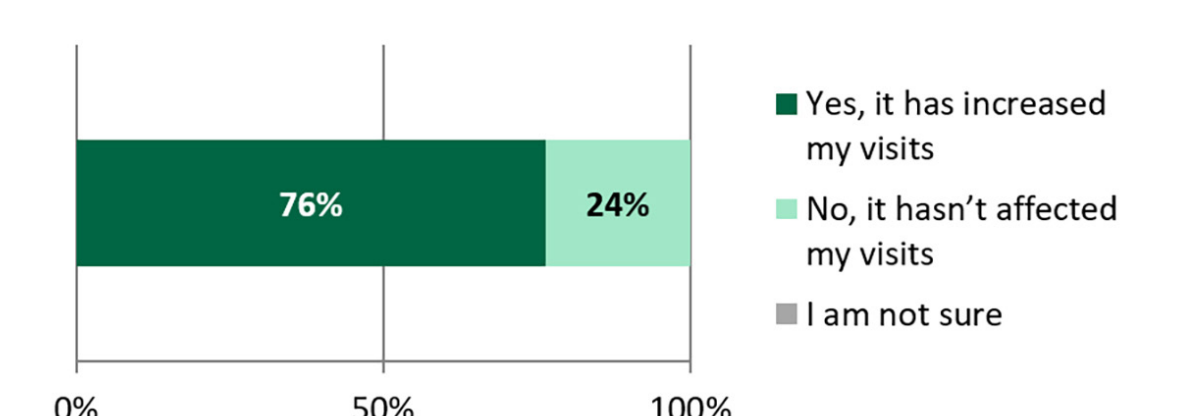
“I didn't know I could get tested for hep C at the NSP before I started coming for butterflies.”



Since the distribution of butterfly needles and larger barrels began, have you noticed an improvement in your safety and health? (n=17)



Has the availability of butterfly needles and larger barrels impacted your decision to visit our NSP sites/services? (=17)



Butterfly Project Timeline

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	JULY
NSW NSP Guidelines updated	Implementation planning and stock order	Commence Resource Collaboration	Health education engagements with clients	Expanding Butterfly distribution to other services
	Commence research ethics application	Health education engagements with clients	Equipment distribution	
		Equipment distribution to commence	Harm Reduction resources for distribution	
		NSP Database updated		

CONCLUSION AND NEXT STEPS

There has been reasonable demand for this equipment which we have managed without significant resource pressure. It is anticipated that we will be able to provide **additional bacterial filtering equipment** with the butterfly packs and will **seek to increase distribution through our local secondary NSP network including our partner OAT services and our ADM network**.

DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST STATEMENT

PR has received research funding from Gilead Sciences, as well as institutional and individual honoraria from Gilead Sciences, Abbvie and MSD.