

## **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, Sydney, Australia**

### **Authors:**

Caroline James<sup>1</sup>, Danielle Resiak<sup>1</sup>, Edmund Silins<sup>1,2</sup>, Nicholas Rich<sup>1</sup>, Phillip Read<sup>1,3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Kirketon Road Centre, South Eastern Sydney Local Health District, Sydney, Australia,

<sup>2</sup>National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, UNSW Sydney, Sydney, Australia, <sup>3</sup>The Kirby Institute, UNSW Australia, Sydney, Australia

Presenter's email: [Caroline.James1@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Caroline.James1@health.nsw.gov.au)

**Background:** In 2023 the New South Wales (NSW) Needle and Syringe Program (NSP) Guidelines were updated allowing NSW NSPs to provide winged infusion sets ('butterflies') and larger volume syringes for distribution across NSW for the first time in 20 years.

**Description of Model of Care/Intervention:** The Kirketon Road Centre (KRC) is a primary health service that engages people who inject drugs (PWID) and provides a NSP via primary NSPs, secondary outlets and automatic dispensing machines (ADMs). Collaboration, capacity building and resource development ensured NSP guideline changes could be integrated into service delivery. A collaboration with the Medically Supervised Injecting Centre delivered an online Masterclass for NSW NSP workers on methadone and winged infusion set injecting. A peer resource was developed with the NSW Users and AIDS Association (NUAA) and distributed with our 'butterfly packs' (10 butterflies, 20 x 10ml barrels and harm reduction information). Packs are distributed through our primary NSP and mobile delivery services and local Opiate Agonist Therapy (OAT) programs across the district.

**Effectiveness/Acceptability/Implementation:** Butterfly and larger barrel distribution commenced in April 2023 from two primary NSP sites and outreach model. To-date we have distributed over 8,000 butterflies and larger barrels to 800 clients and provided harm reduction information via face-to-face engagement and flyers. Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. OAT services that over twenty years ago had requested butterflies and barrels be removed from NSW distribution have provided support enthusiastically. There was no evidence of butterflies being unsafely discarded in public spaces.

**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 local pharmacies 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.