

POLICY REGISTER

Warren Shire Council

Community Sharps Management

Reviewed: 27th July 2006

Policy adopted: **Minute No. 245.8.06 (24th August 2006)**

File Ref: **G2-4.3**

I. BACKGROUND

Needles, syringes, lancets and other community sharps are generated in a wide range of non-clinical situations, including residential and commercial property, public areas and public facilities. Unsafe or inappropriate disposal may represent a risk to council employees, contractors, the community, and the environment.

Council is committed to maintaining high standards of public health, environmental management and workplace safety. To fulfil this objective it is necessary to properly manage the disposal of community sharps to provide safe and healthy environments for our employees, residents and visitors.

The aim of this Policy is to clearly articulate that Council is responding to community sharps management issues through the effective management of associated public and workplace risks.

II. POLICY STATEMENT

The Community Sharps Management Policy outcomes for public health, and workplace safety are to work in partnership with the community and other stakeholders to:

- Provide and maintain high standards of public health and workplace safety that comply with or exceed the requirements of all relevant legislation, through the effective management of community sharps
- Provide services and infrastructure that maximise appropriate community sharps disposal and minimise the potential for needlestick injuries to occur to workers, community members or visitors
- Regularly monitor and review the effectiveness of objectives, strategies and actions for the management of community sharps

III. POLICY PROCEDURES

The Community Sharps Management Plan provides the framework for objectives, strategies and actions for community sharps management.