

## What to do if you find a sharp

While the risk of acquiring a serious infection as a result of an accidental injury from a community sharp is low, the anxiety resulting from such an injury can be significant.

- Do NOT attempt to recap the needle.
- Find an Australian Standard sharps container or a rigid-walled, puncture-resistant, sealable container.
- Find and put on latex/rubber gloves if possible.
- Bring the suitable container to the needle/syringe.
- Place the container on the ground beside the needle/syringe.
- Do not hold the container upright in your hands as you are disposing of the needle/syringe.
- Place the needle/syringe in the container, sharp end first.
- Securely place the lid on the container, holding the container at the top.
- Remove gloves (if appropriate) and wash hands with running water and soap.
- Dispose of the sharps container in your nearest community sharps disposal bin. Although not the recommended option, the community may dispose of the sharps container or suitable sealed container into a general household rubbish bin.

Other items that have come into contact with blood should be disposed of into a sharps container or placed into double plastic bags and then into the general household rubbish bin.

Parents should advise children to inform an adult if they find inappropriately disposed needles/syringes and to refrain from touching the needle/syringe.

If you have any concerns or do not feel comfortable in safely disposing of the inappropriately discarded sharp, please contact:

- Clean Needle Helpline (1800 NEEDLE)  
Ph: 1800 633 353 or
- Logan City Council on Ph: 3412 5318.

## What to do if you get a needle stick injury

- Stay calm.
- Encourage the wound to bleed (gently squeeze).
- Wash the area with cold running water & soap (if available).
- Apply an antiseptic and band-aid.
- As soon as possible, contact your local doctor or hospital for advice on the need for HIV or Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C testing, counselling and immunisation.

Source: Queensland Health/ Local Government Assn. of Qld

## Safe sharps disposal checklist



Place your sharps in an Australian Standard approved sharps container or in a suitable container that is rigid-walled, puncture resistant and has a sealed lid.



Dispose of your sharps container in the community sharps disposal bins listed in this brochure.



Dispose of your single sharps in a community sharps disposal unit located in most public toilets.



DO NOT dispose **exposed** needles/syringes in the rubbish/recycle bins or flush down toilets, drop in parks, roads or storm water drains that may cause harm to you and others.



DO NOT re-use needles/syringes. Communicable diseases are REAL.



## Further information

For more information about sharps disposal please contact:

### Logan City Council

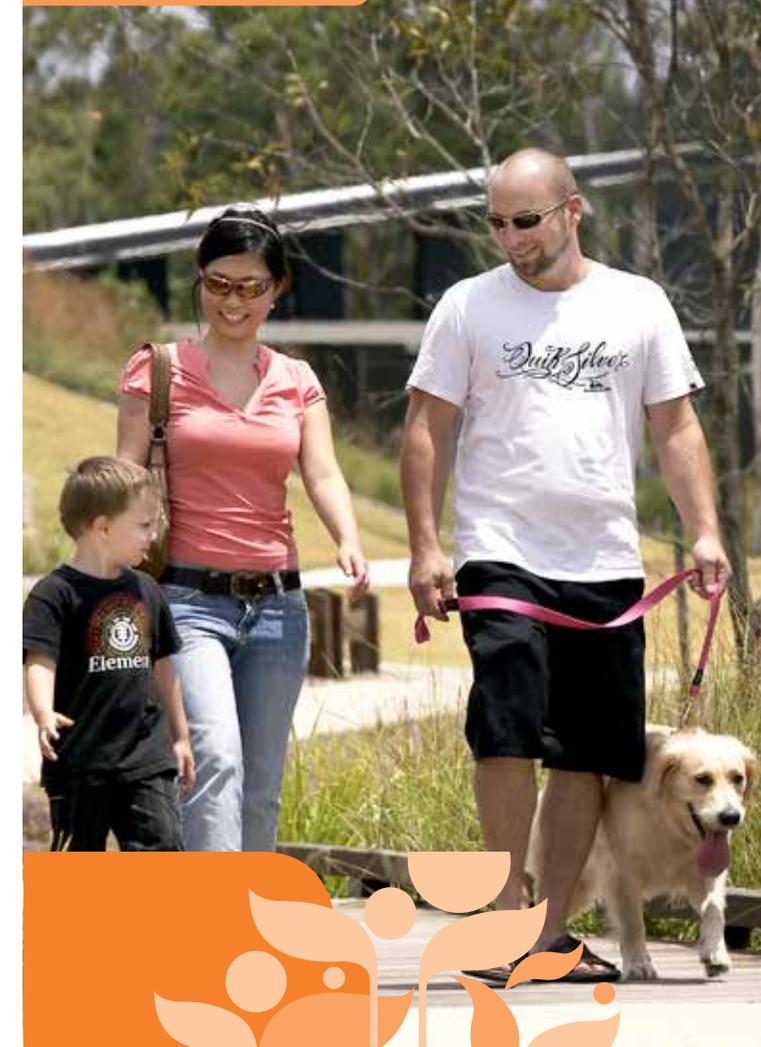
3412 5318  
PO Box 3226, Logan City DC Qld 4127  
[www.logan.qld.gov.au](http://www.logan.qld.gov.au)

### Clean Needle Helpline

1800 NEEDLE  
1800 633 353

# SAFE SHARPS DISPOSAL COMMUNITY INFORMATION

[www.logan.qld.gov.au](http://www.logan.qld.gov.au)



BUILDING OUR **COMMUNITIES**  
**BUSINESSES AND PRIDE**



# Protect yourself and others from injury

## What are Community Sharps?

'Community Sharps' are considered to be those needles, syringes and lancets used by members of the community for the administration of drugs and supplements, or for the testing of specific physiological parameters such as blood sugar levels. Due to an increasing population and new patients being diagnosed with illness that requires medication by injection, there will be an ongoing need to provide and encourage the use of community sharps services.



For more information about Community Sharps Management in Logan please refer to the Logan Community Sharps Management Strategy 2012 - 2014 available on Council's website at [www.logan.qld.gov.au](http://www.logan.qld.gov.au).

## Safe community sharps disposal

For best practice sharps disposal:

- Place sharps into an Australian Standard approved sharps container; and
- Dispose of the sharps container into a community sharps disposal bin.

As a minimum legislative requirement, the community may dispose of sharps in a suitable container that is rigid-walled, puncture resistant and is sealed or securely closed. Examples of a suitable container include:

- Australian Standard approved sharps container;
- Recycled metal coffee can with securely taped lid; or
- Recycled thick plastic laundry liquid container with secure lid.

The sharps container or suitable container can then be placed into your nearest community sharps disposal bin. Although not the recommended option, the community may dispose of

- The sharps container or sealed suitable container into a general household rubbish bin.
- Queensland Needle and Syringe Programs (QNSPs) <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>It is important to note that, discarded sharps can generate a level of fear in the community that is disproportionate to the actual risk posed by the presence of discarded sharps. The risk of infection following a needle stick injury (NSI) outside a medical setting is low. This is not to say that it cannot happen, simply that the probability is low.

## Sharps containers

Australian Standard approved sharps containers are manufactured in various sizes, including 5 litres, 2.8 litres and smaller sharps containers. Sharps containers can be purchased from various locations, including pharmacies, Diabetes Australia Queensland or are available free from Needle & Syringe Programs (NSPs).



Examples of Australian Standard sharps containers in various sizes, including 5 litre, 2.8 litre, 1.5 litre and smaller sharps containers.

Sharps disposal bins/single sharps units may also be found at Railway Stations, Medical Centres, Pharmacies and Public Toilets.

Commercial waste producers of 'clinical or related waste' are required to contract a licensed waste transporter to treat and dispose of such waste.

It is envisaged that a culture of safe sharps disposal can be created by enhancing and promoting the options for safe sharps disposal and appropriate sharps management information.



Community Sharps Disposal Units<sup>1</sup> for the disposal of single sharps inside a public toilet cubicle in Logan City.

## The Risks Associated with a Lack of Sharps Management Programs

Inappropriate disposal of sharps can have community impacts such as:

- re-use of potentially contaminated injecting equipment
- potential cause of injury and infection, from needle stick injury (NSI) to the community
- public perceptions of public domain safety and cleanliness
- emotional trauma associated with the possibility of disease transmission
- adverse local, regional, state and national publicity
- higher incidence of exposed sharps being discarded in unwanted locations such as in community settings, waste bins and flushed down toilets, with a risk of needle stick injury to the community and workers
- a potentially infectious waste stream generated outside a medical setting
- deterioration in employee relations
- potential for litigation
- environmental nuisance

## Community sharps disposal bins

Community sharps disposal bins are installed across Logan to provide safe sharps disposal locations in the city. These bins are for the disposal of sharps containers only. A licensed clinical waste contractor regularly services the bins.



For locations of community sharps disposal bins in

Logan, refer to the table in this brochure.

A number of pharmacies in Queensland may also provide opportunities for disposal at their stores.

Details of pharmacies that may provide this service in Logan can be found at [www.findapharmacy.com.au](http://www.findapharmacy.com.au).

Community based disposal facilities may also be found at railway stations, medical centres and public toilets.

**Note:** The community sharps disposal bins are provided for the general community. Commercial 'clinical and related waste' generators are required to engage their own licensed waste contractors.

## Sharps Disposal Facilities

To effectively manage the collection and disposal of sharps, a broad range of services and facilities need to be provided. There are number of existing sharps disposal facilities throughout Logan City.

### City of Logan: Community Sharps Bins Locations

No.	Location	Address	Open hours
1	Animal Management Centre	213 Queens Road, Kingston	Monday to Friday 8.30am to 4.30pm Saturday 9am to 2pm (Closed Sundays and all public holidays)
2	Beenleigh Transfer Station	15 Wuraga Road (Cnr Beaudesert-Beenleigh Road) Beenleigh	Monday to Sunday 7am to 5.30pm (Closed Good Friday and Christmas Day)
3	Browns Plains Smart Tip	349 Browns Plains Road, Heritage Park	Monday to Sunday 7am to 5.30pm (Closed Christmas Day)
4	Carbrook Smart Tip	1801 Mount Cotton Road, Cornubia	Monday to Sunday 7am to 5.30pm (Closed Christmas Day)
5	Greenbank Transfer Station	Pub Lane, Greenbank 2 - 26 Equestrian Drive, Greenbank	Monday to Sunday 7am to 5.30pm (Closed Good Friday and Christmas Day)
6	Logan Central Library	26 Wilbur Street, Logan Central	Monday to Sunday 24 hour access
7	Logan Village Transfer Station	1406 - 1432 Waterford-Tamborine Road, Logan Village	Monday to Sunday 7am to 5.30pm (Closed Good Friday and Christmas Day)

### Queensland Health

No.	Location	Address	Open hours
8	Logan Central Community Health Centre	97 - 103 Wembley Road, Logan Central	24 hour access
9	Beenleigh Community Health Centre	10 - 18 Mt Warren Boulevard, Beenleigh	24 hour access
10	Browns Plains Community Health Centre	Cnr Middle Road and Wineglass Drive, Hillcrest	24 hour access

### Sharps Bins: For use by Council Staff only

11	Marsden Depot
12	Munruben Depot

It is envisaged that a culture of safe sharps disposal can be created by enhancing and promoting the options for safe disposal and appropriate sharps management information.