

Harm Reduction 101

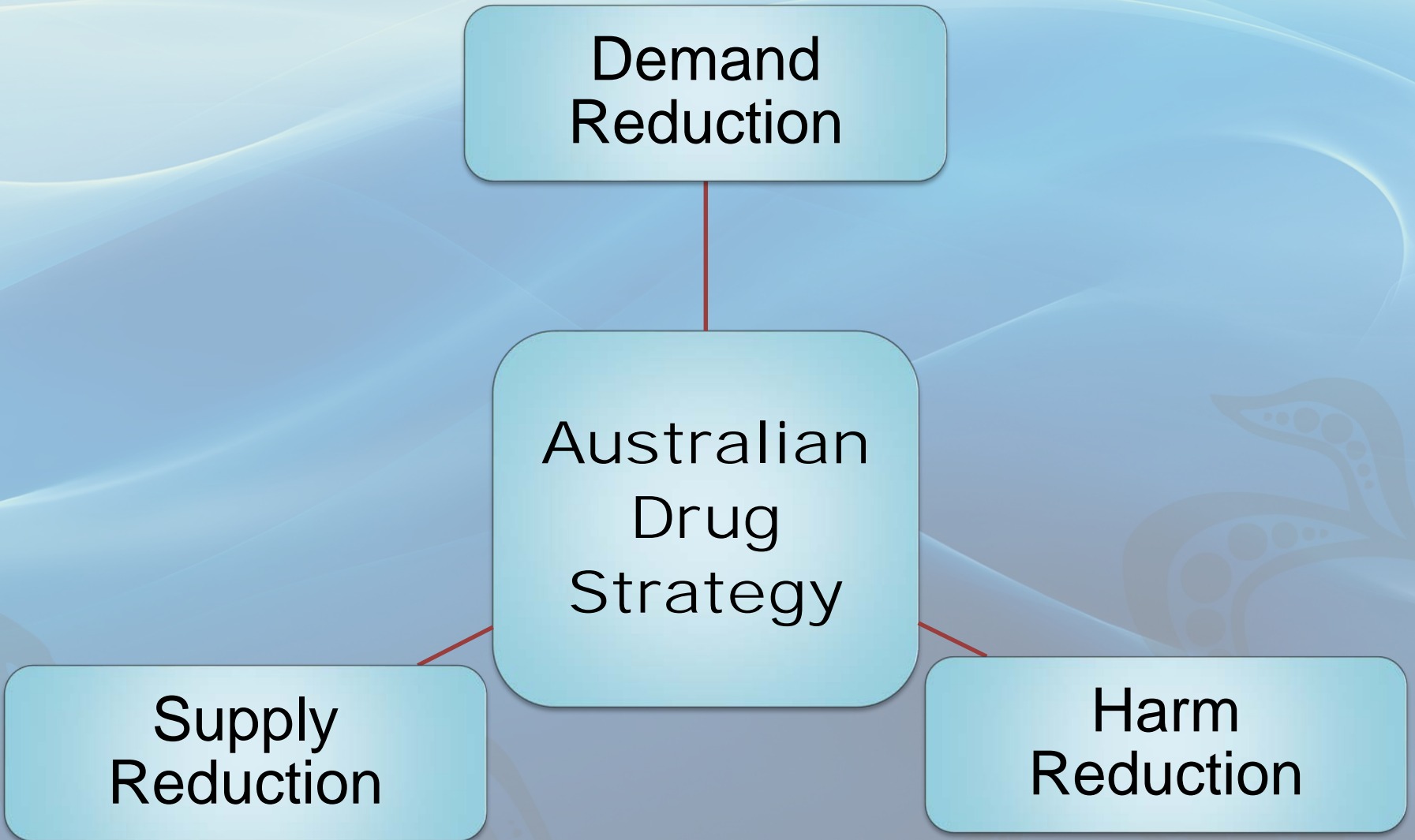
Needle Syringe Program

Deb Woodbridge | Harm Reduction Officer
North Coast Harm Reduction Service/NSP
North Coast Public Health Unit



Health





Demand Reduction
(21%)

Australian
Drug
Strategy
Spending

Supply Reduction
(75%)

Harm Reduction
(2%)



Health



Harm Reduction Services
do not condemn or condone
drug use.

We aim to reduce associated
harms to the individual
and the community.



Health



Why has NSW Health
been distributing
new injecting equipment for
more than 20 years?



Health



BACKGROUND



Health



Aboriginal artwork produced by Gumbaynggir artist Brentyn Lugnan.

Originally funded to reduce the
transmission of HIV among
PWID and
the wider community



Health



Scenario



Tony
(HIV
+ve)



Guy

Tony and Guy share
a needle and Guy
contracts HIV from
Tony

Scenario



Tony
(HIV
+ve)



Guy



Jane

Guy has
unprotected sex
with Jane and she
contracts HIV from
Guy

Scenario



Tony
(HIV
+ve)



Guy



Jane

Sarah contracts HIV from Jane through vertical transmission



A Case for NSPs

3000 NSPs in Australia

140 NSPs in USA

A Case for NSPs

3000 NSPs in Australia

8% of HIV diagnosis via
IDU in Australia

140 NSPs in USA

HIV rampant among
PWID in USA

A Case for NSPs

3000 NSPs in Australia

8% of HIV diagnosis via
IDU in Australia

42 pediatric HIV cases
in NSW

140 NSPs in USA

HIV rampant among
PWID in USA

>17 000 pediatric HIV
cases in New York

NSP in NSW Today



Health



Aboriginal artwork produced by Gumbaynggir artist Brentyn Lugnan.

Today, HIV rates among
PWID is
less than 2%



Health



HIV

Prevented 32 050 new infections

HCV

Prevented 96 667 new infections

\$
Savings

Prevented 5.85 billion in health and productivity costs



Health



\$1
Invested



\$27 return
in savings



NSW
GOVERNMENT | Health



NSP in Australia Today

- Maintain low rates of HIV among PWID
- Focus on all blood borne viruses – HIV, HCV & HBV
- Working with higher risk sub-populations
 - New initiates to injecting
 - Aboriginal injectors
 - Young people at risk of transitioning to injecting



Health



Services Provided

- Needle & Syringe Distribution
- Community Sharps Disposal
- Client Education & referral
- Home Delivery & Outreach
- Needle Clean up Hotline
- Education & Workforce Development



Health



Why should Pharmacies Participate in NSP?



Health



Services Provided

- NSW Health can only distribute from health sites
- Pharmacies are situated in the community
- Embeds PWID health issues into mainstream health
- Supporting community needs
- Keeping community safe from discarded equipment
- Generates income



Health



Financial Incentive

- One off \$385 at commencement
- Packs are provided free so cost of packs are 100% profit
- \$\$ when a used fitpack is returned



Health



Thank you

Deb Woodbridge

Deb.Woodbridge@ncahs.health.nsw.gov.au

02 6622 2222

Harm Reduction Officer
North Coast Public Health Unit



Health



Assessment

1) What percentage of the Australian Drug Strategy budget is allocated to Harm Reduction?

- 1) 20%
- a) 2%
- b) 30%
- c) None of the above

Assessment

2) How can HIV be transmitted from one person to the next?

- a) injecting drugs
- b) vertical transmission
- c) sharing injecting equipment
- d) b & c

Assessment

3) The HIV rates among PWID in Australia is?

- a) 0%
- b) < 2%
- c) < 20%
- d) 50%

Assessment

4) NSPs have prevented how many new HCV infections?

- a) 50 000
- b) nearly 100 000
- c) 1 000 000
- d) none of the above

Assessment

5) Why should pharmacists consider distributing injecting equipment?

- a) supporting community health needs
- b) embedded in communities, unlike most health sites
- c) financial incentive
- d) all of the above



Health

