

## 1 OBJECTIVE

To ensure workers are protected from HIV – AIDS, Hepatitis A, B and/or C and other infectious diseases that could result from needle stick injury or cuts

Moree Plains Shire Council (Council) is committed to providing workers with a healthy and safe workplace whilst carrying out activities at the direction of Council.

In most work performed by Council workers there is little likelihood of infection by these diseases and HIV infection through occupational exposure is very rare.

## 2 STATEMENT

Council is committed to providing all relevant needle, syringe and sharps handling equipment and storage containers and training staff in the handling and disposal of sharps.

Workers will be given clear procedures, responsibilities and guidelines regarding sharps disposal and reporting to maximise workplace health and safety.

Sharps disposal infrastructure to reduce inappropriately discarded sharps in the community will be provided at strategic locations.

## 3 EXPOSURE CLASSIFICATIONS AND RISK FACTORS

When exposure has occurred a general practitioner will assess the level of risk to determine further medical management.

The recipient should be assessed and examined to confirm the nature and seriousness of the exposure and counselled about the possibility of transmission of a blood-borne virus.

Treatment for an exposure to possible or definite HIV should begin as soon as possible after exposure.

Management of exposure to definite or possible Hepatitis B is dependent upon previous vaccination or previous infection. When the recipient has not been previously infected and is not immune, Hepatitis B immunoglobulin and/or vaccination should be administered. The risk of tetanus should also be determined.

## 4 MEDICAL EXPENSES


Staff who sustain a 'sharps injury' from a contaminated or potentially contaminated source while undertaking work related duties will be asked to lodge a workers' compensation application to enable medical bills to be paid.

For further enquiries, please contact the RTW Officer on (02) 6757 3243.

## 5 POLICY REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed at any time it is apparent that the circumstances which gave rise to the policy have changed substantially.

The policy will be reviewed biennially from the date of adoption by the General Manager.

Drafted by:	HR Section	Adopted:	February 2013	Dated:	12/02/2013	GM Signature:	
MANEX & WHS Comm	Reviewed	Review Date	February 2015	Policy No:		Version:	1 Page 1 of 1