**Medically Supervised Injecting Room at North Richmond Community Health**

On 1 July 2018, a medically supervised injecting room opened at North Richmond Community Health. The room is part of a two-year trial, under supervision from the Victorian Government.

**What is a medically supervised injecting room?**

A medically supervised injecting room is a place where people can use drugs in a supervised health setting. This means that if someone overdoses in the room, a staff member can respond immediately.

North Richmond Community Health’s room also provides other health services, and provides a pathway to treatment and rehabilitation. If a person using the room needs a service like mental health support, wound care and blood testing, they will be able to access it through the medically supervised injecting room.

**Why North Richmond Community Health?**

To get as many people off the street and into the room as possible, it’s important that the room is located where people already buy and use drugs. North Richmond’s drug market has existed for a long time and is concentrated in quite a small area, where North Richmond Community Health is also located.

We also already provide many vital health services to reduce the spread of blood borne viruses and other harms associated with drug use. As a community health service, we are committed to improving the safety and wellbeing of everyone in our community.

**How will this impact the community?**

The medically supervised injecting room will save lives. The room is also expected to improve amenity and the environment for the local community, by moving drug use from outdoors into a controlled, medically supervised environment.

After other medically supervised injecting facilities have opened, residents have reported a decrease in discarded needles. In Sydney, ambulance call-outs decreased by 80% after the medically supervised injecting room opened. Bringing drug use into a supervised environment will also reduce the potential trauma experienced by the local community, who may witness public drug use and overdose.

**Who can I talk to?**

North Richmond Community Health is here for the entire community. We are happy to meet with you to discuss any questions, concerns, or ideas for how to best support the community.

**If you would like to speak to someone about the medically supervised injecting room, please contact:**

**ourcentre@nrch.com.au**

**03 9418 9800**