

FREE AUTOMATIC VENDING MACHINES; THE IMPACT ON FACE-TO FACE PRIMARY NSP DELIVERY

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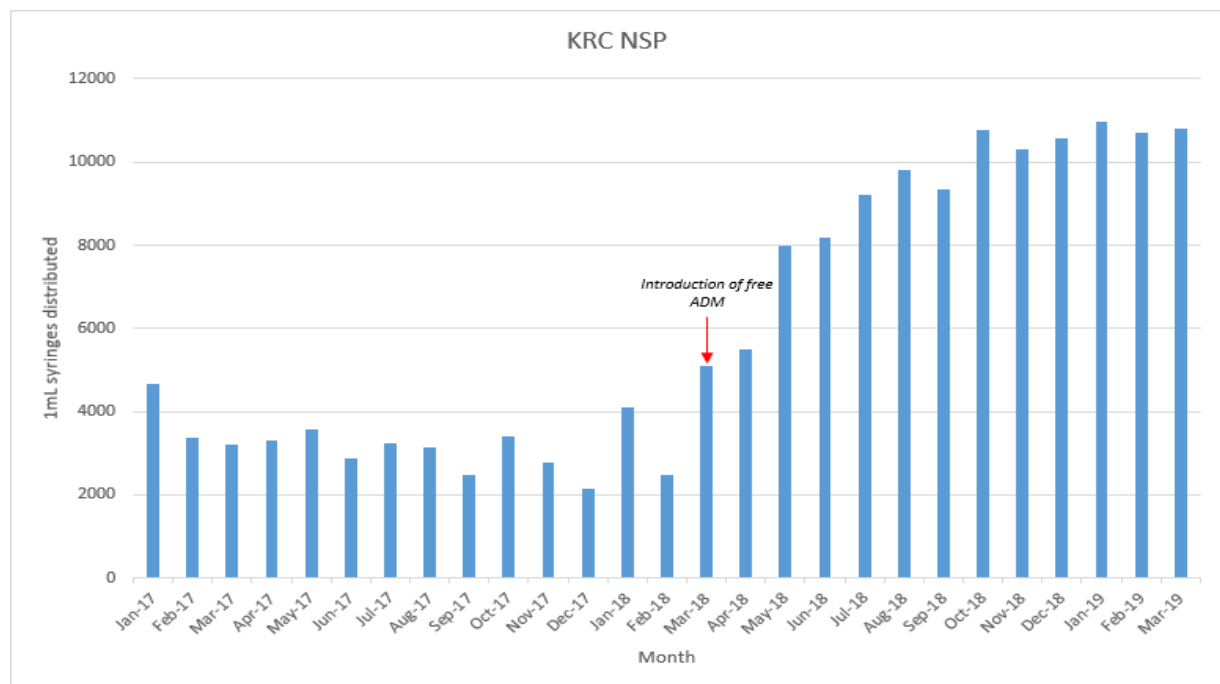
Background: The Kirketon Road Centre (KRC) is a public primary health service in central Sydney. KRC is also responsible for providing a district-wide Needle and Syringe Program (NSP).

NSP is provided by both face-to-face services and automatic dispensing machines (ADMs). Unlike face-to-face services, ADMs have a three dollar cost associated with them. The aim of this project was to assess any changes in NSP distribution with the removal of this cost from the ADM at KRC, which is co-located at a primary, face to face NSP service.

Approach: We analysed month to month distribution of 1ml syringes from both the ADM and KRC's primary NSP service. We also assessed change in distribution of other equipment at the primary service, and occasions of service at the primary NSP.

Key Findings: Analysis of data showed a swift increase of over 100% from the KRC ADM within 12 months of the change to free (figure 1). However, there was also a noticeable decrease of 17% in the amount of NSP distributed from the staffed primary service. Overall NSP distribution increased by 20%.

Discussion: Primary, face to face NSP services provide an important point of contact for people who inject drugs. The primary NSP service at KRC is co-located at a primary health care service, which facilitates access to support and health care. Whilst the increase in NSP distribution is a positive outcome, planning to maintain and build relationships with clients who inject drugs will need to be a priority.



Disclosure of Interest Statement: Nil