



Peer Based Harm Reduction WA Annual Report

2022 / 2023

*In memory of our Perth friends John, Brett, Steve and Yaz.
We also remember Mick, John, Tonks and Travis, our friends from the South West.
Lives that matter.*

Acknowledgement of Country



Peer Based Harm Reduction WA's Boorloo (Perth) office is located on Whadjuk Noongar Boodja, by banks of the Derbarl Yerrigan, which is also known as the Swan River. Our Koombarnup (Bunbury) office sits on Wardandi Noongar Boodja.

Peer Based Harm Reduction WA acknowledges that we work on Yued, Whadjuk, Pindjarup, Wardandi, and Kaniyang lands. Sovereignty has never been ceded. This is, was, and always will be Noongar land.

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners and Custodians of this Country. We recognise and pay our respect to their culture and their continuing connection to the land and waters of these beautiful places. We thank them for protecting these places and their ecosystems since time immemorial.

We pay our respect to Elders past and present, and extend that respect to all First Nations people.

Chairperson's and CEO's Address

Dear Member

It is our privilege to present the Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer's report on behalf of Peer Based Harm Reduction WA's Committee of Management (COM), and on behalf of the volunteers and staff of the organisation.

Peer Based Harm Reduction WA is the state's only peer-based Alcohol & Other Drug service-delivery organisation, providing a range of innovative and consumer-driven health and harm reduction services. The organisation was originally established by, and all of our programs are run by and for, people who use or have used drugs. As such, Peer Based Harm Reduction WA is uniquely positioned to provide a voice for people who use drugs, to represent their needs and concerns, and to support their rights as health consumers. We aim to bring the insights and perspectives of our peers into all of our work, to our partnerships with other organisations, and to the advice and advocacy that we provide to governments and policy makers.

The 2022 - 2023 financial year has seen the retirement of our long-serving CEO Angela Corry. We would like to thank Angela and acknowledge her years of dedicated service to the organisation. On behalf of the COM we welcomed Paul Dessauer into the role of CEO from February 2023. Paul has a wealth of experience in peer-based initiatives and a sound commitment to the values of the organisation.

Our programs continue to evolve and expand to better support the health and human rights of people who use drugs and to contribute to Australia's hepatitis C elimination goals. Our core funding from Sexual Health and Blood Borne Virus Programs at the Health Department of WA has allowed us to continue providing the largest needle & syringe program in the state and to deliver person-centred health services for people who inject drugs. During the months of March to June we conducted community engagement work in the South West Region thanks to a small additional grant from the Health Department of WA, and this work will inform the planned expansion of our Mobile Health Clinic activities in the region.

Our Overdose Prevention and Peer Naloxone contract with the Mental Health Commission concluded in June, with a new Community Take Home Naloxone Peer Delivery and Outreach Service commencing in its place, further increasing our capacity to provide naloxone anywhere in the community to anyone who might suffer or witness an overdose. We would like to acknowledge these funding bodies, which enable Peer Based Harm Reduction WA to continue providing a range of unique services which increase the health equity of our consumers.

This year we welcomed three new Committee of Management (COM) members: Professor Simon Lenton, Dr Stephen Bright, and Dr Jessamine Soderstrom. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the long standing and new COM members for their support and for their diligent oversight of the organisation. Our COM has ensured that Peer Based Harm Reduction WA continues to work within its Strategic Plan, meet its obligations, manage its finances, and operate transparently, while maintaining its quality certification under the Alcohol and other Drug and Human Services Standard.

On behalf of the COM and the management we would like to sincerely thank our Finance Manager, Sai Thia, and our Finance Officer, Stevie Davies, for their diligent commitment to ensuring the positive financial outcomes and systems improvements that have been achieved over the 2022 - 2023 financial year. We also extend our appreciation to all staff members for their significant contributions to the important work that Peer Based Harm Reduction WA does.



Jill Rundle
Chairperson



Paul Dessauer
CEO



peer based
harm reduction wa

Treasurer's Report

Peer Based Harm Reduction WA would like to express its thanks to the State Government departments (the Health Department Communicable Diseases Control Directorate and the Mental Health Commission) for their support of Peer Based Harm Reduction WA through funding grants over the past financial year.

The grant funds received for 2022 - 2023 were \$1,804,862. The audited financial statements are enclosed in the annual report. The financial statements outline the financial performance and position for the 2022-2023 financial year. As is reflected in the Statement of Comprehensive Income PBHRWA completes the year with a surplus of \$76,037. It is therefore with pleasure that I present to the Members the 2022- 2023 audited accounts.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Finance team for their diligence and dedicated work throughout the year, and their work to encompass the expanded mobile programs, and to Nexia Australia for their auditing services, support and advice.

We look forward to another successful year ahead.

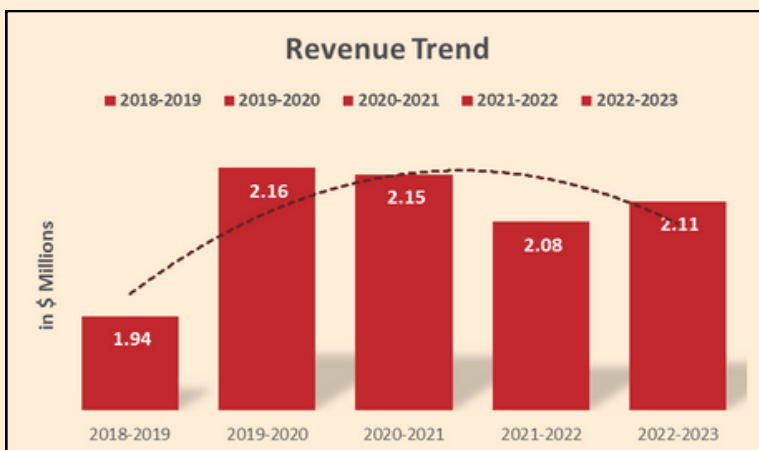
Hamish Dobie
Treasurer

Finance

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOTS FOR THE 2023 FINANCIAL YEAR

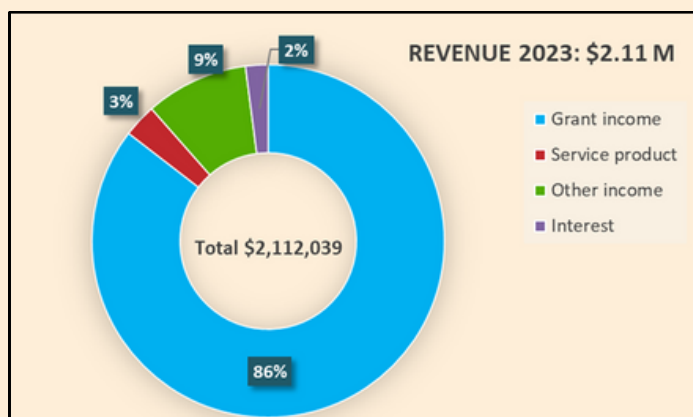
Operating Revenue

- There were no significant changes in the state of affairs of the Association during financial year 2022 - 23.
- Operating Revenue in 2023 was \$2.11M with no real movement against the prior year.
- Total revenue has increased more than \$170K over the last 5 years (or 1.7% per annum).

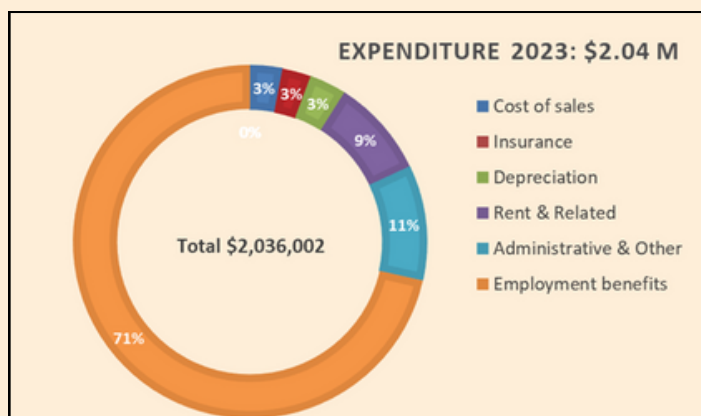


Revenue Source

Grants remain the primary source of funding for Peer Based Harm Reduction WA services, representing 85% of the total revenue in FY2023. Department of Health WA provides 90% of the Association's service program funding, with the remaining 10% provided by the Mental Health Commission WA.



Source	\$ AUD	
	2022-2023	2021-2022
Grant income	1,804,862	1,971,751
Service product	64,093	56,480
Other income	199,362	45,133
Interest	43,722	6,644
Total Revenue	2,112,039	2,080,008



Total Expenditure

Employment expense is the Association's largest expenditure item representing 71% (2022 71%) or \$1.45M against the total organisation overheads in 2023 with 23 employees.

Type	\$ AUD	
	2022-2023	2021-2022
Cost of sales	60,917	68,032
Insurance	53,410	50,615
Depreciation	68,757	62,136
Rent & related	182,843	172,300
Administrative	214,860	201,505
Employment benefits	1,455,215	1,383,347
Total Expenditure	2,036,002	1,937,935

Our annual audited Financial Report 2023 can be downloaded through the ACNC Charity Register listing at www.acnc.gov.au and is also available on request



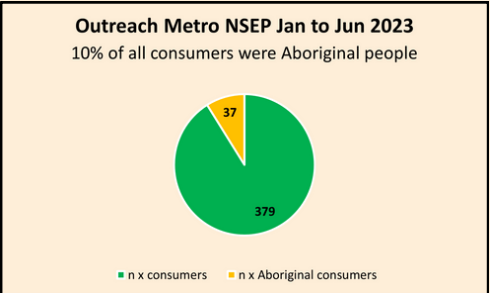
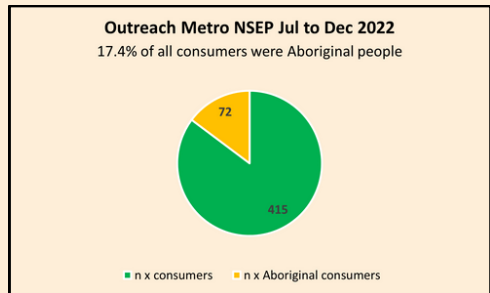
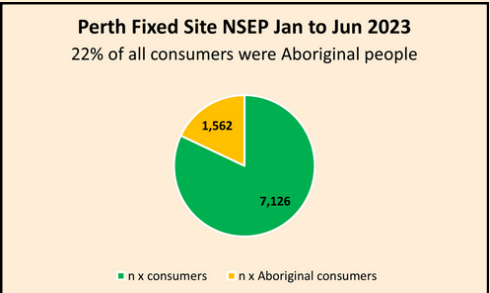
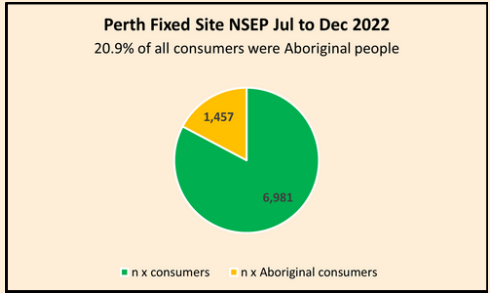
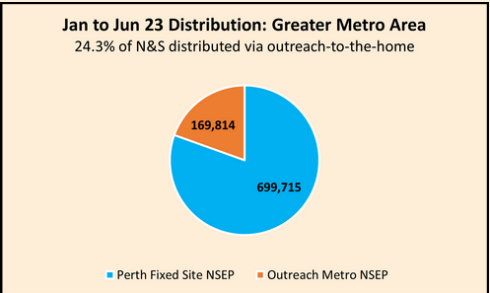
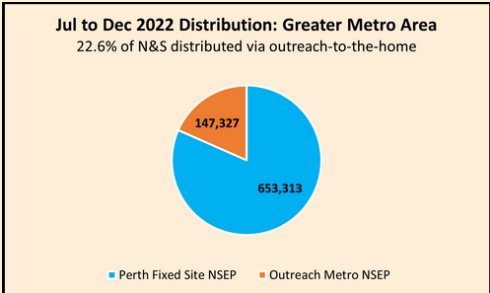
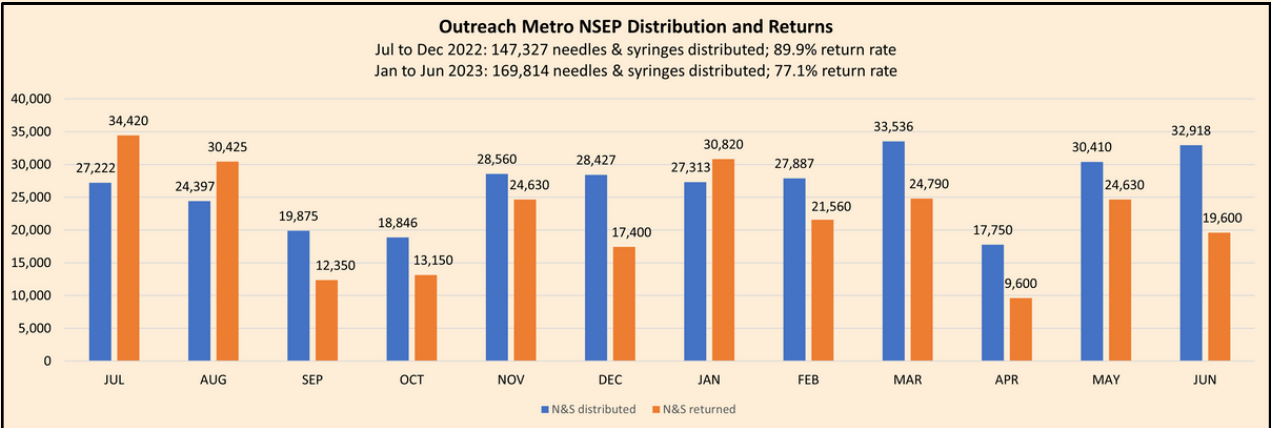
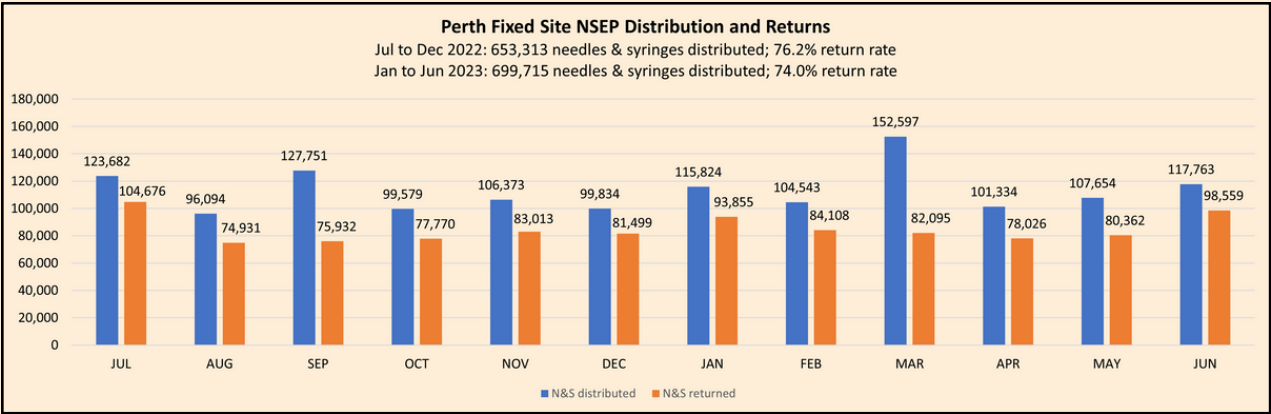


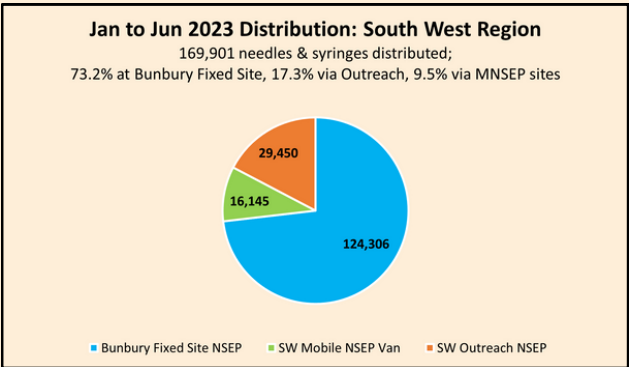
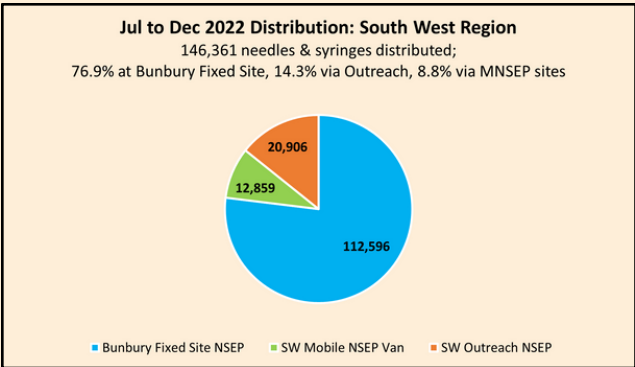
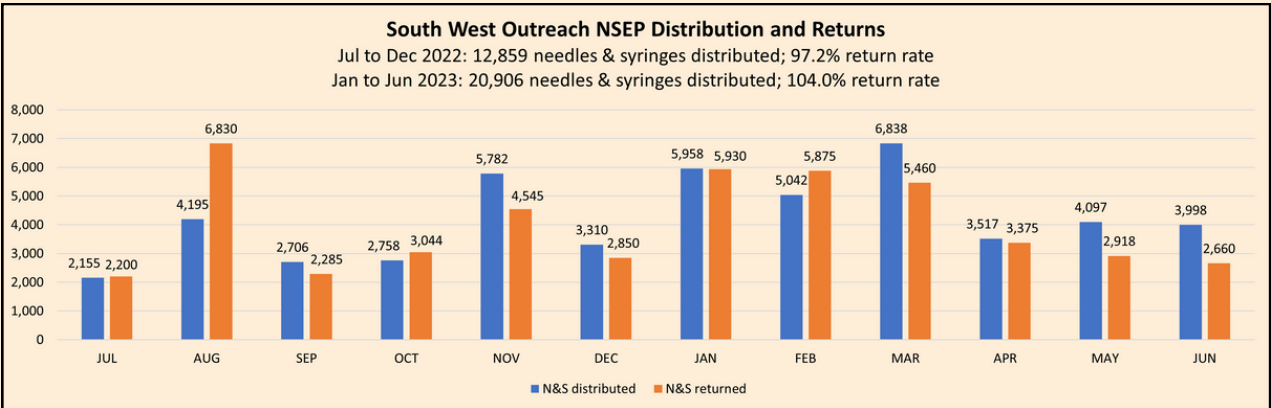
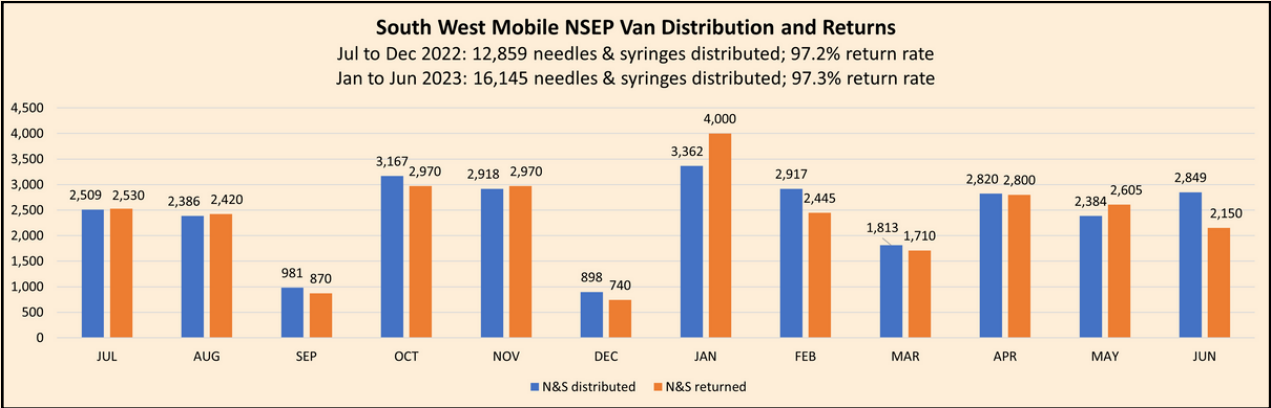
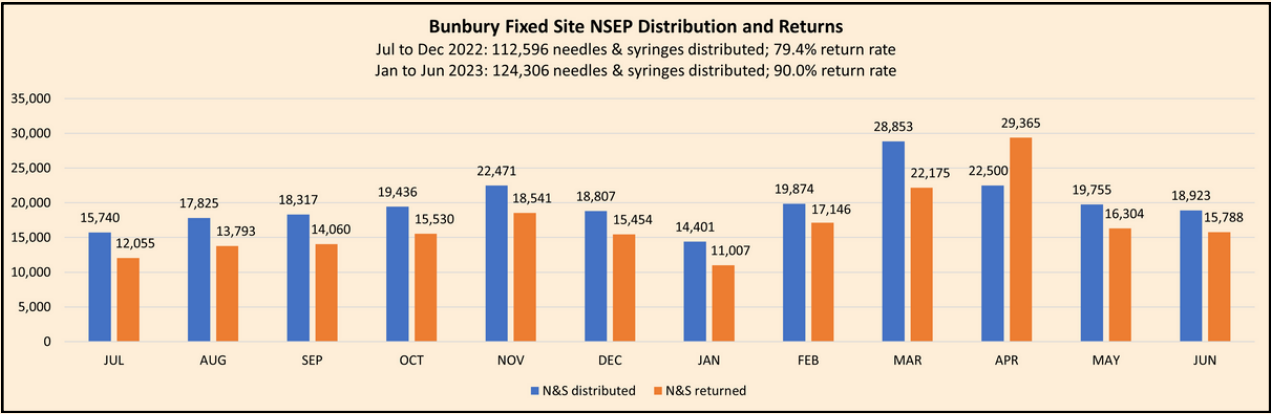
NSEP and Outreach

Peer Based Harm Reduction WA (PBHRWA) delivers the largest needle and syringe program in the state. Our Needle and Syringe Exchange Program (NSEP) consistently distributes more than 1/3 of all injecting equipment that is provided in WA each year, via our Perth & Bunbury fixed-site NSEPs and our SW Mobile NSEP van, via Outreach NSEP (delivered to-the-home throughout >30,000 km² of the greater Perth Metro Area and the South West Region), and by our Postal NSEP service (available to consumers anywhere in WA).

Our models of delivery are purposely designed to overcome barriers and to maximise accessibility for anyone who might need our services. Outreach NSEP has the ability to deliver to where the consumer is, instead of expecting them to come to us, and our programs are staffed by peer workers, which enhances engagement, greatly increasing our consumers' confidence and trust in the service. These two factors combine to make NSEP and the harm reduction education that accompanies it much more accessible to our consumers. Since the advent of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic an increasing proportion of needles and syringes are provided via outreach. Since March 2021, the proportion of N&S delivered in the greater Perth Metro Area via outreach-to-the-home has roughly doubled.

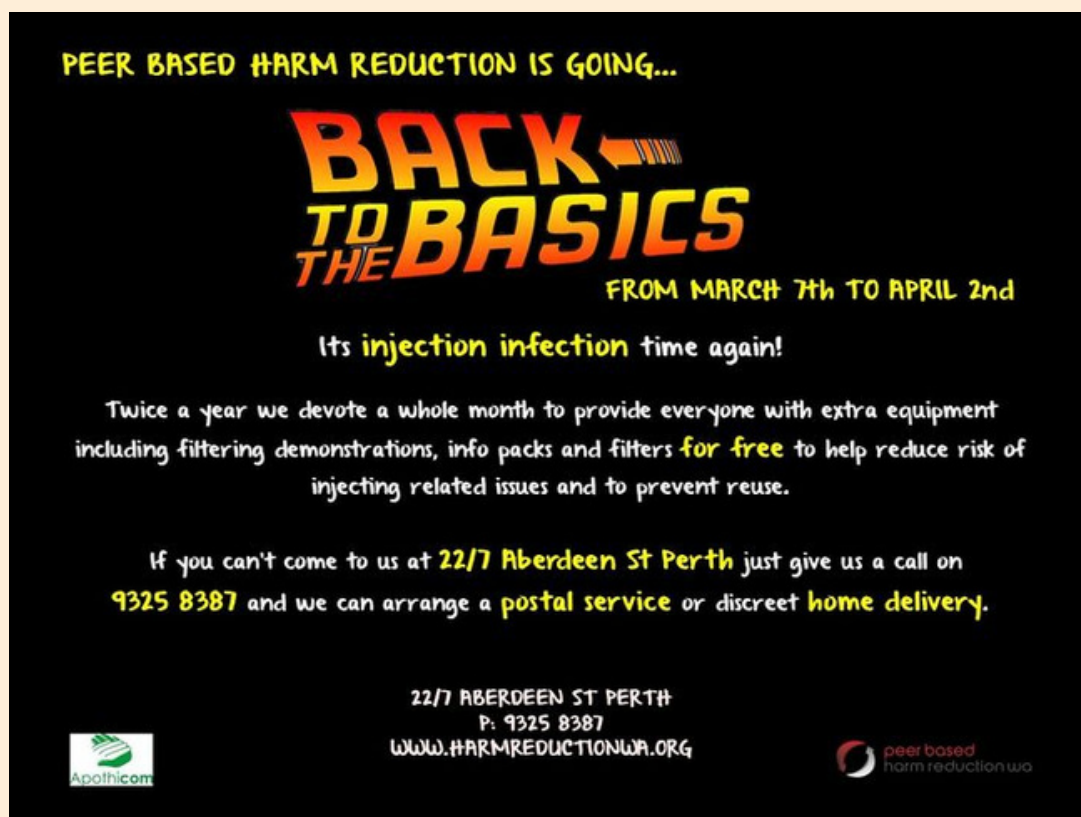
Over the last 6 years, PBHRWA distributed an average of 1.92 million needles & syringes per annum. During this year, our combined NSEP services provided 38% of all needles & syringes distributed in WA.








NSEP health promotion - Support. Don't Punish, June 2023



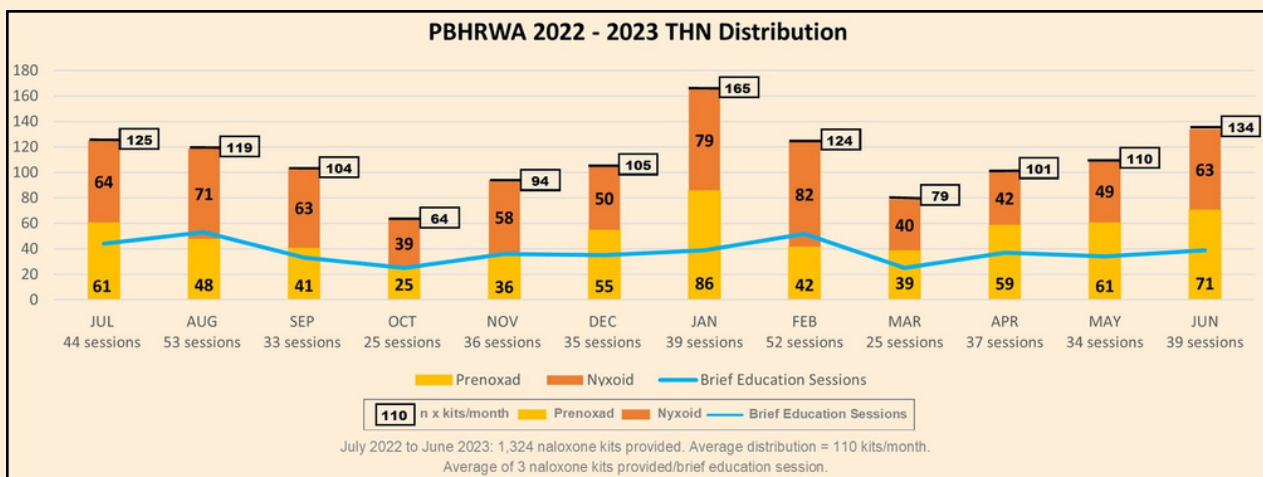
NSEP health promotion - Injection Infection Month, March 2023



Overdose Prevention and Take Home Naloxone

PBHRWA was the first agency in WA to pilot take-home-naloxone, with a peer-based project that commenced in January 2013. The program has adapted and evolved ever since, with PBHRWA remaining by far the largest take home naloxone provider in the state. During the last year PBHRWA provided an average of 110 naloxone devices per month to people who are at risk of suffering or witnessing an opioid overdose. Naloxone is provided by peer workers, accompanied by brief education (<10 mins) on how to recognise and respond to opioid overdose. 24% of naloxone provided in Perth and the South West was delivered in outreach settings, typically delivered to the person in their home. 76% of people who receive naloxone from PBHRWA are returning for replacement devices, and 78% of those are replacing devices that have been used to reverse an overdose in the community.

In June our existing contract ended and was replaced by a new agreement which will allow our Overdose Prevention and Take-Home-Naloxone Project Officer to recruit volunteer peer educators who will be trained and authorised to provide naloxone via brief education. The new project also facilitates increased provision of naloxone in outreach settings, to further increase the accessibility of this simple, life-saving initiative.



Naloxone health promotion: 2022 holiday season



Naloxone health promotion: April 2023



INHSU VIDEO SERIES

Connecting with Care



In late 2022, INHSU visited Peer Based Harm Reduction WA in Perth and the South West to film *Connecting with Care - Western Australia*.

This short film highlights the role of our Health Team in providing respectful, accessible, and appropriate models of care. The right to health is a fundamental Human Right. We are incredibly proud of the work our teams do in the community, providing unique services which increase the health equity of our consumers.




To watch, scan the QR code or follow this link:
<https://www.inhsu.org/what-we-do/advocating-for-change/innovative-models-of-hcv-care-films/western-australia/>

Health Clinic

PBHRWA Health services are delivered via our Health Clinics (co-located within our Perth and Bunbury fixed-site NSEPs), and are also delivered in the community via Outreach Clinics to consumers' homes, and at Mobile Health Clinic Van sites.

PBHRWA Health Team is led by our Nurse Practitioner, who is based at the Perth Office, with a Registered Nurse operating the South West Clinic. Nursing staff are supported by HCV Case Management workers operating from our fixed-sites in Perth and Bunbury. These peer workers are trained to deliver pre- and post-test counselling and to perform phlebotomy and point-of-care-testing. As outreach workers, they can help people to access testing and treatment and provide ongoing assistance in the community, supporting people to remain in treatment until they clear the virus. This is an essential component of our Health Team's person-centered Model-of-Care and acts to make testing and treatment much more accessible.

A total of 438 new patients and 620 returning patients were seen in this twelve month period.



**COME AND SEE THE NURSE
IN THE MOBILE CLINIC VAN**

**WEDNESDAYS IN JULY AT
MIRRABOOKA COMMUNITY HUB
10.30AM TO 1.30PM**

**FREE BLOOD-BORNE VIRUS AND SEXUAL HEALTH
TESTING**

peer based
harm reduction wa

PBHRWA continues to provide Mobile Health Clinics in the Perth Metro area and the South West Region.


During this year, PBHRWA Health Team partnered with workers from Department of Health WA and the Metropolitan Communicable Disease Directorate to deliver a series of Mobile and Outreach Clinics in the Perth metro area. These utilised our Perth Mobile Health Clinic van and Peer Workers to facilitate the provision by Health Department staff of COVID-19 and influenza vaccinations, and of testing and treatment for HIV and syphilis. PBHRWA Peer Workers recruited consumers for the clinics and provided point-of-care-testing for hepatitis C. These clinics were very successful collaborations which highlight the effectiveness of our Health Team's unique approach.



Perth HCV Case Management

Between July 2022 and June 2023 our Perth HCV Case Management worker provided services to our consumers on 846 occasions. 165 of these were times the worker engaged with people who were new to our Health Team's services. The HCV Case Management worker supported 27 people to commence HCV treatment and continued to provide assistance and support in the community throughout their treatment journey.

In addition to providing education about HCV testing and treatment and providing telephone and home-visit support to patients, the worker home-delivered DAA medication to people 30 times, took blood samples on 46 occasions, and conducted point-of-care testing for HCV 195 times.

A photograph of two women standing in a storage room. The woman on the left is wearing a white puffer jacket and blue jeans, looking at a smartphone held by the woman on the right. The woman on the right is wearing a light green hoodie and blue jeans. They are surrounded by white shelves filled with various supplies, including boxes, bags, and containers. A yellow sign is visible on the right side of the shelves.

South West Update

It has been an exciting 12 months for the South West Team, with everyone working to provide the best service possible to all our consumers, and with the promise of enhancing and expanding our operations into the future.

From March to June of 2023, WA Health provided a small grant which supported additional activities designed to improve engagement with the communities in the South West. We initiated this by engaging willing NSEP consumers from small communities throughout the region to participate in focus groups and consultations. Participants described some of the barriers that people who inject drugs in smaller communities face and suggested strategies to help make services more accessible. Confidentiality concerns are greatly amplified in smaller communities, which is why PBHRWA provides health and harm reduction services via outreach, (whether this is in the person's home, at a safe meeting place of their choosing, or in a community setting). This project forged new relationships and provided valuable insights, informing our plans to expand our Mobile Health Clinic operations over the next four years and to simultaneously increase the accessibility of NSEP, take home naloxone, and harm reduction education in the region.

To further these plans, the South West Team have been working to build relationships with relevant local agencies and have provided Mobile Health Clinics offering STI & BBV testing services at a number of community events in towns throughout the region. These activities have further developed our connections to community and highlighted the need for confidential and nonjudgmental services to be available equitably to all people regardless of their circumstances.

All of the Team's hard work can be clearly seen in the 2022-2023 data: the South West Team saw 2,344 occasions of service (up 35.4% from the previous year), providing more than 226,000 needles and syringes (an increase of 31.5% on 2022). The South West Health Clinic saw 311 patients throughout this year, 131 of whom were new to the service. The SW Clinic provided hepatitis C treatment to 7 people, and vaccinated 67 people against hepatitis A & B.

We have a fantastic team based at the Bunbury office and each of them is dedicated and proud to work with and for the people who access our services.



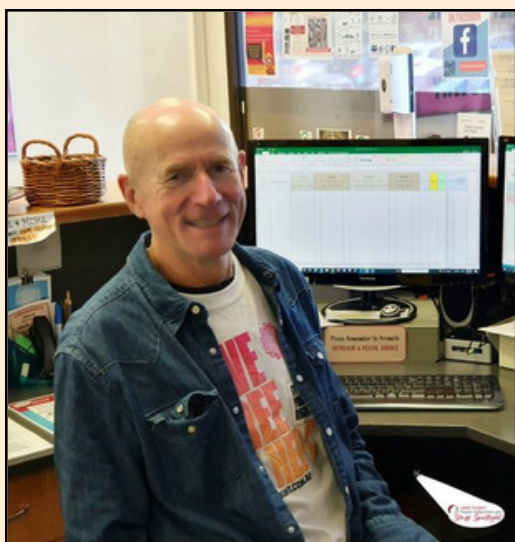
The South West
Outreach Team out
and about at
Koolambidi Woola
(Bunbury Skate Park.)

Our People

MEET THE PEER BASED HARM REDUCTION WA TEAM

Our staff team is a vibrant and diverse group of people who bring a wealth of unique experiences and perspectives to their work. It is their dedication that sets us apart, allowing us to foster meaningful relationships with our community, drive innovation, and provide exceptional service to our consumers.

This year's Annual Report cover features photographs from our Staff Spotlight Facebook series. We have included some excerpts from those staff profiles in this year's report so you can meet some of our team.



Meet John

NSEP SUPPORT WORKER

"Harm reduction is really my passion. In my day, accessing clean fits was difficult. By accessing needle and syringe programs, consumers have access to information and medical facilities that they would not normally use as they are often not comfortable."

Meet Harper

OUTREACH NSEP WORKER

"My name is, Harper. PBHRWA is a great workplace with a very friendly and helpful team who are passionate about supporting people in the community who inject drugs and looking out for their health and well-being. I have an exciting role as I get to meet a wide variety of interesting people while providing a service which surely makes their lives a lot easier."



Meet Amanda

OUTREACH NSEP WORKER

"My name is Amanda and I work at Peer Based Harm Reduction here in Bunbury. I am very fortunate to be a part of a great team and a wonderful service. I work in the NSEP and do outreach to Collie."

I love my job and coming to work knowing I am making a genuine difference in someone's life. Kindness, dignity, respect and compassion go a long way."



Meet Menzies

NSEP SUPPORT WORKER

"My name is, Menzies. I previously worked in an alcohol and drug rehab for years, which is probably what attracted me to this job in the first place. It's nice to carry on in a similar role helping people, which has become the only way I want to work. One of my favourite parts to this job is building rapport with consumers and seeing them slowly feel more and more comfortable as they come in to our service."

Meet Kelly

SENIOR NSEP WORKER

"It is safe to say that I love my role. I feel passionate about providing a non-judgmental service to our consumers. I enjoy liaising with them on a person-centered level, and I love it when they say that they feel welcomed and non-judged when they walk through our doors."



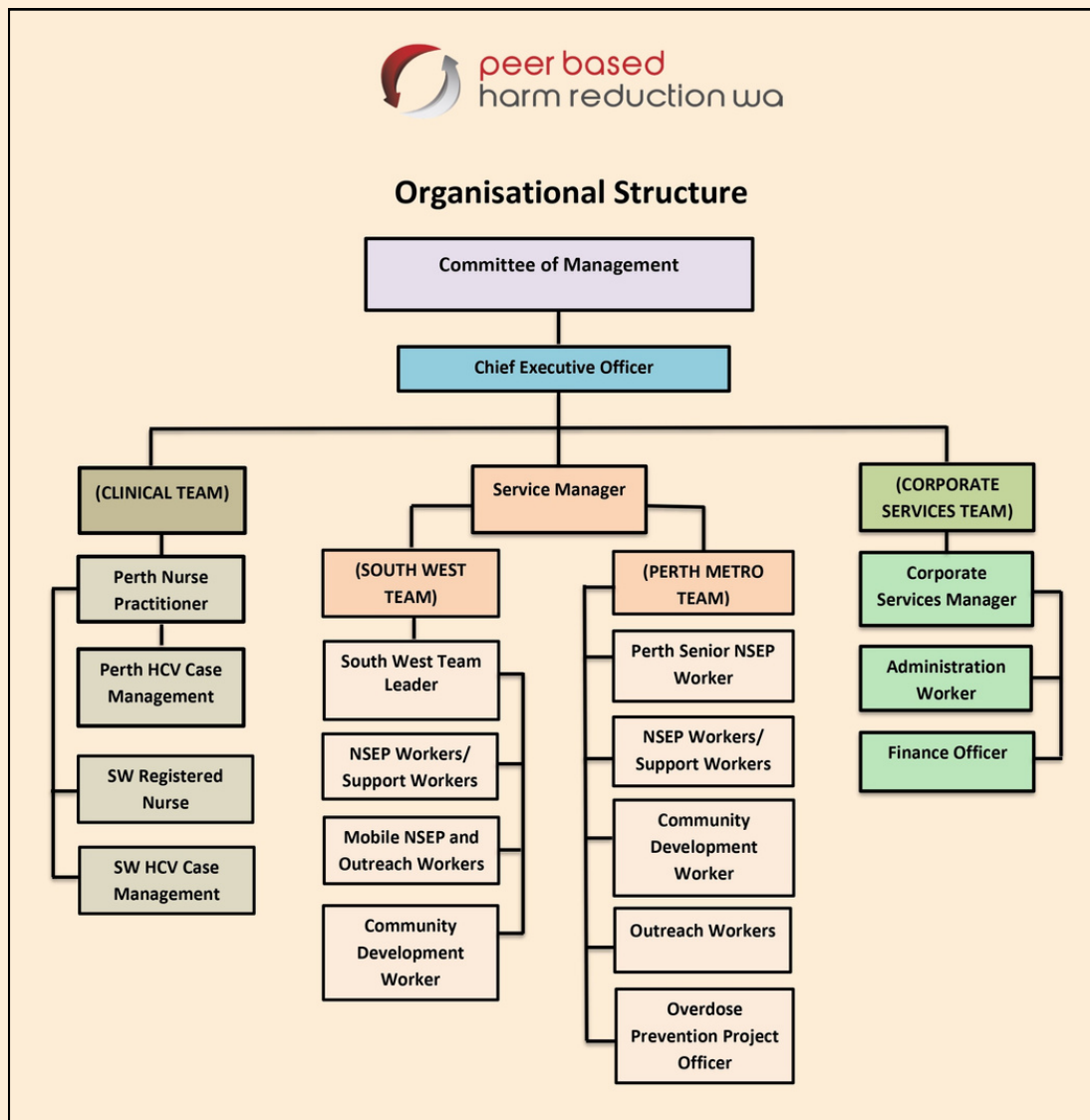
Meet Rhiannon

NSEP WORKER

"There was no place like PBHRWA when I was using. It's such an awesome organisation where there is no judgment and people are made to feel at ease with whatever they need. The focus is always on providing the best health outcome for our community."

Our Staff

AN OVERVIEW OF OUR ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE



- Chief Executive Officer
- Service Manager
- Nurse Practitioner
- Registered Nurse
- HCV Case Management Workers
- Perth Senior NSEP Worker
- NSEP Workers
- NSEP Support Workers

- South West Team Leader
- Mobile NSEP Workers
- Outreach Workers
- Community Development Workers
- Overdose Prevention Project Officer
- Corporate Services Manager
- Administration Worker
- Finance Officer

