

## **GUIDELINES FOR THE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NSPFORUM**

### **WHEREAS**

The manufacture, supply and administration of certain drugs is prohibited by law. Neither Anex nor the Needle and Syringe Program (NSP) sector condone or encourage illicit activity.

The mission of Anex is to promote best practice and to support the NSP sector in the delivery of high quality services to people who inject drugs.

The aim of the NSP sector is to reduce the harms arising from the injection of these substances to individuals, families and to the community at large, especially in relation to the transmission of blood-borne viruses such as HIV and hepatitis C.

This goal is supported by the National Drugs Strategy, the National HIV/AIDS Strategy and the National Hepatitis C Strategy as part of a harm minimisation framework that incorporates supply reduction, demand reduction and harm reduction.

Harm reduction recognises that while drug use continues, it is necessary to introduce and implement practical strategies to reduce the harms arising from their use to the individual, families and to the community at large.

In order to achieve its goals, the NSP workforce needs to be equipped with necessary information and skills.

The sharing of information and discussion of NSP-related issues contributes to the continued development of the sector's capacity to provide services of high quality.

There are limited opportunities for information dissemination and discussion of practice issues in the sector, especially across state and territory boundaries.

The NSP workforce is diverse and often operates within severe time constraints.

### **GUIDELINES TO THE USE OF THE NSPFORUM**

The NSPFORUM is an electronic discussion service hosted by Anex to facilitate discussion and information sharing on NSP-related issues. The guidelines below have been developed by Anex as a means to maintain the integrity and continued viability of the service and to ensure its value to the NSP sector.

Subscribers are requested to observe appropriate standards of etiquette when posting to the list. This includes but is not limited to:

- Brevity
- Politeness
- Respect and sensitivity
- Relevance to the topic

Subscribers are also requested to indicate any conflicts of interest that exist in relation to their posting to the list. This includes but is not limited to any pecuniary or other advantage that may flow to the subscriber, in the first instance or such close associates of the subscriber as may be relevant.

All content of messages distributed through NSPFORUM belong to the authors and are not, in fact nor by implication, representations made by Anex. Subscribers are advised to check the accuracy of any purported statements of fact contained in their messages.

Quoting from specific messages posted onto the NSPFORUM is discouraged as it may serve to undermine free exchange of information, ideas and discussion. Subscribers or such persons wishing to quote specific content may contact the authors directly.

While maintaining the free exchange of information, ideas and discussion, Anex reserves the right to:

- Reject the request to publish information that it deems to reflect intolerance of any group, incites violence, racial hatred, is defamatory or breaches any laws.
- Reject or remove content that it deems to contain rude or abusive language.
- Reject or remove content that contains commercial promotion.

#### **PROCEDURE FOR THE ASSESSMENT AND APPROVAL OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NSPFORUM**

Contributions to the NSPFORUM will be assessed on the above criteria by an appropriate Anex staff member (Anex Officer) in the first instance.

Where in the opinion of the Anex Officer, the contribution or any part thereof contains content that is in breach of or likely to be in breach of these guidelines, s/he may:

1. Contact the contributor to request clarification or amendment of the contribution or any part thereof; or
2. Reject the contribution or such part as may breach these guidelines.

Where a clarification or amendment is made pursuant to the above, the Anex Officer may reject the contribution if in his/her opinion the contribution is in breach of or is likely to be in breach of these guidelines.

In assessing contributions to the NSPFORUM, the Anex Officer may consult the opinion of the Chief Executive Officer.

#### **PROCEDURE FOR APPEAL OF A DECISION TO REJECT A CONTRIBUTION TO THE NSPFORUM**

Where the contribution or a part thereof by a subscriber of the NSPFORUM is rejected, s/he may seek clarification in writing from the Anex Officer in the first instance.

Where the Anex Officer receives such a request, s/he is to provide a response within 14 days from the receipt of the request.

Where the subscriber is dissatisfied with the response of the Anex Officer, s/he may refer the matter in writing to the Chief Executive Officer stating reasons that the response is inadequate.

The Chief Executive Officer shall consider the matter and respond within 14 days from receipt of the request.

The decision of the Chief Executive Officer shall be final.