



OH&S Bulletin

You Can Stick Yourself!

Get 'Em Before They Get You!

Anybody working in the city - and a lot of other places - can tell you that they're finding more and more syringes on and around their jobs. If proper procedures are used for their disposal, there's not much to worry about - as long as you can see them. The real problem is when they're hidden and can stick someone who doesn't know they're there.

Needle in a Haystack?

Many users dispose of their needles safely but others aren't worried about other peoples' safety. Needles have been found in the coin return slots of public telephones, seats in movie theatres and public transport and in the cardboard centre of toilet rolls. All of these are places where another person could



accidentally be stuck with the needle and of course there are many others.

Keep Your Eyes Open

It's just a matter of being aware of the problem and being a bit more careful. If you *do* get a needle stick injury, don't panic. Wash the area immediately with soap and water and make sure it's reported in the First Aid register. See your doctor for follow up.

Prevention is Better than Cure

CFMEU policy is that if you're a peggy, First Aider steelfixer or anyone else at risk of being exposed to blood born viruses, you should be immunised against Hepatitis B. But the most important thing is to have good procedures for disposing of needles and remember to check before reaching into places you can't see.

Authorised by Pat Preston, Manager, Environmental & Occupational Health & Safety Unit