



**Return on investment 2:
Evaluating the cost-effectiveness of
needle and syringe programs in Australia
2009**



Australian Government
Department of Health and Ageing



**National Centre in HIV
Epidemiology and Clinical Research**



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Glossary

Abbreviations

AIDS	Acquired immune deficiency syndrome
ARV	Antiretroviral therapy
CPI	Consumer price index
DALYs	Disability-Adjusted-Life-Years
HIV	Human immunodeficiency virus
HCC	Hepatocellular carcinoma
HCV	Hepatitis C Virus
IDU	Injecting drug user
IQR	Inter-quartile range (25-75% interval)
ICER	Incremental cost-effectiveness ratio
IRID	Injection related injuries and disease
NCHECR	National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research
NDM	Needle dispensing machine
NPV	Net present value
NSP	Needle and syringe program
QALYs	Quality-Adjusted-Life-Years
SVM	Syringe vending machine

Definition of terms

Cost-effectiveness	Efficiency of a program: estimate of costs spent or saved in relation to health outcomes averted or reduced
Incidence	A measure of the number of new cases of a disease in a population in a given time (usually yearly)
Direct cost	A cost that is directly traced to the delivery of specific goods or services
Discount rate	The rates used to discount future cash flows to their present value
Economic analysis	Economic evaluation that compares two or more alternative courses of action in terms of both their costs and consequences
Incremental cost	The change in cost associated with a program or intervention compared to an alternate option
Incremental cost-effectiveness ratio	The incremental cost of a program or intervention divided by the incremental benefit of a program or intervention compared to an alternative
Marginal cost	The change in the total cost when the production of an outcome of interest increases by one unit
Marginal return	The additional output resulting from a one unit increase in the use of a variable input, while other inputs are held constant
Net financial cost	The cost of financing the purchase of a program or intervention minus any costs or cost savings for the consequences of an intervention
Net monetary benefit	The net costs and cost-offsets of a program allowing for a government or societal willingness to pay for a unit of health gain
Net present value	Total present value (PV) of a time series of cash flows; it is a standard method for using the time value of money to appraise long-term projects
Prevalence	The proportion of individuals in a population with disease
Productivity gains and losses	Gains or losses of production related to sick leave, absences from work, total and permanent disability or death in participants in a program or population measured in monetary values
Undiscounted	Evaluations based on assumptions of all monetary terms having equal values in the future as the current value of money
Unit cost	Cost of a unit of production