



## **NeedleCalm Fact Sheet**

- The **extreme fear of needles** has been overlooked as a medical problem despite affecting **~15% of the world's population** and being recognised as a phobia in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders.
- Extreme fear of needles triggers anxiety (e.g. shortness of breath, fainting, tremors, nausea, panic attacks, and loss of consciousness) and can prevent people from seeking treatment for disease, or vaccination. As a result, **20% of patients that fear needles avoid medical treatment.**
- Beyond the extreme fear (termed trypanophobia), it is reported that up to **20% of people** have some degree of fear of needles and injections.
- Fear of needles is thought to affect **90% of the paediatric population.**
- It is extensively accepted that fear of needles, **increases vaccine non-compliance**, the incidence of needle-stick injury and decreases use of general medical care, particularly needle related procedures.
- A 2012 survey found that of a survey of over 2,000 people, **60% did not seek out a flu vaccination**, and that 23% of these (i.e. 15% of the total) did so because of a fear of needles.
- With the race on to **develop a COVID-19 vaccine**, never have the public been more aware of the importance of preventing and reducing the spread of contagious disease.
- **Herd immunity** is only effective when the overwhelming majority of the public is vaccinated. When **people avoid vaccinations** due to a fear or anxiety of needles this can compromise not only their own health but affect the health of others.
- NeedleCalm Pty Ltd has developed **a medical device - NeedleCalm®** - to assist with the **reduction of fear of injections** and to **alleviate pain** associated with injections.
- NeedleCalm® utilises the body's natural process to stimuli by activating both thermoreceptors and mechanoreceptors blocking **the sharp sensation** otherwise felt by a needle.
- Clinical trials of the NeedleCalm® device have shown that **66%** of trial participants reported a **decrease in needle-related pain** compared to the placebo with **no adverse events or allergies** reported.
- NeedleCalm® is expected to be ARTG listed as a Class 1 medical device in **Q2 2020.**
- Founded in 2016 by a **clinical nurse specialist**, NeedleCalm Pty Ltd is a **Sydney-based** medical device company.
- NeedleCalm Pty Ltd was established to **develop and commercialise medical technology** to reduce the discomfort associated with needles.

For more information on NeedleCalm® please go to <https://www.needlecalm.com.au>  
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