



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Shire of Esperance**

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**5 February 2018**

## **REWARD OFFERED FOR INFORMATION**

The Shire of Esperance is offering a reward of up to \$500 for information that leads to a conviction of the person or persons responsible for the vandalism at the Dixon Park Playground.

Syringes and faecal matter were found around the play equipment on Saturday evening after two young boys suffered needle stick injuries. Mr Edgar, one of the boy's fathers, collected 7 needles and took these to the hospital for testing and safe disposal. Please note, earlier reports of up to 32 needles have subsequently been found to be incorrect due to a miscommunication.

CEO Matthew Scott stated "I am completely appalled by the vandalism that occurred at the Dixon Park Playground over the weekend. What a horrible thing to do, with no thought of the consequences. Two young boys have suffered needle stick injuries and the families now have to wait for test results."

"Under Policy *EXE 017: Vandalism Rewards*, we are able to offer a reward for any information that will assist Police in locating the person or persons responsible. A reward of up to \$500 will be payable for any information provided that leads to a conviction. The estimated costs to repair the damage to the park is \$5-7,000 and this does not compare to the stress and anxiety for two families involved."

Shire staff acted immediately when called and attended the playground where they cleaned up visible signs of drug usage and faecal matter and taped off the walkway. At 6am on Sunday morning staff returned to the playground and put up signage and installed a barricade closing the park. A full inspection of the site was completed and planning commenced on what needed to occur to make the park safe.

Remediation works commenced Monday morning with the soft fall sand being raked, no further needles were found. The play equipment will receive a high pressure clean tomorrow and work will continue on Wednesday with the current soft fall sand being removed from the area and new sand being installed.

If you have any information that may assist the police in the capture of the person or people responsible please call the police on 9079 8999.

Matthew Scott said "Our thoughts and prayers are with both families as they await the results."

**Ends**

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### **MEDIA CONTACT:**

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