

## Pharmaceutical cap recycling

In 2022, following the ANMF (Vic Branch) Health and Environmental Sustainability Conference, the Branch became a drop-off collection point for members looking to recycle medication vial [plastic flip caps](#).

These caps have been diverted from landfill via two organisations: [Reverse Art Truck](#) and [Recycled Pen Art](#), who re-use and repurpose the otherwise non-recyclable plastic into materials for schools and art projects.

Recycled Pen Art, is run by an ANMF member and her paramedic husband, who use the colourful plastic of intravenous medication vial caps to create unique, individually crafted pens. They make lovely gifts, with \$1 from each pen going to the [Sea Turtle Foundation](#), a not-for-profit non-government organisation that works to protect these endangered creatures whose lives and habitats are threatened by plastic that ends up in the oceans. Due to their handmade nature, each pen is unique. The pen bodies are crafted from recycled intravenous medication vial plastic caps and brushed polished metal in either silver, bronze, black, copper, rose gold, gold, or a mix of colours. Each pen comes with an additional ink refill (refills can be purchased from Officeworks).

The pharmaceutical cap recycling program can serve as a platform for other sustainability related projects in your department. It interrupts business as usual, and models waste as a resource – *one person's trash is another person's treasure*.

It is not a requirement of the project, but it helps significantly, if caps are separated into blue and red in one bag, and all the other colours in another.

If you would like to donate your caps for re-use, you can drop them off during business hours at the ANMF (Vic Branch), 535 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne, Level 8, attention ANMF Environment Health Officer Ros Morgan.

**Please note: ANMF only has the capacity to receive pharmaceutical vial plastic flip caps at this point. We cannot receive other items such as needle caps, IV bungs, or water or saline amps. Just as non-recyclable plastic in your home recycling bin will contaminate the entire contents of the bin, any items other than plastic flip caps delivered to ANMF threaten the collection.**

### On the Record stories:

- 25 February 2023: [otr.anmfvic.asn.au/articles/keep-recycling-your-medication-vial-plastic-caps](https://otr.anmfvic.asn.au/articles/keep-recycling-your-medication-vial-plastic-caps)
- 28 June 2022: [otr.anmfvic.asn.au/articles/recycle-your-medication-vial-plastic-flip-caps/](https://otr.anmfvic.asn.au/articles/recycle-your-medication-vial-plastic-flip-caps/)

