

# Return Unwanted Medicines (RUM):

# The solution to Medicine Waste

## Why your medicine cabinet can be a health hazard

Most of the medicines in our medicine cabinet we need, but what about the yellow pills in a jar that's lost its label, and the eye drops with the crystals growing around its seal? And what was so wrong that we were prescribed Quivinox B-Sulphamate?

## Old medicines lying around the home 'just in case' are dangerous...

- ✓ If taken when they're out-of-date
- ✓ If taken when not prescribed for you
- ✓ If in reach of little prying fingers

In an average week, around 50 Aussie kids are admitted to hospital after swallowing medicines not intended for them.

**The RUM Project** provides the safest and easiest way to dispose of unwanted and out-of-date medicines.

It makes possible the return of all household medicines to any pharmacy at anytime - for free and safe collection and disposal.



## Think before you throw

Unwanted medicines are often dumped into the toilet, tipped down the sink or put out with the garbage, which starts a journey that can seriously harm the environment.

More than 300 tonnes of medicines find their way into waterways and landfill every year.

We need to change our behaviours to solve this problem and give the environment a chance.



### ⚠ Don't flush medicines down the toilet.

Sewerage plants can't treat all chemicals in waste water, resulting in contamination of waterways.



### ⚠ Don't pour medicines down the sink.

Household medicines contain highly soluble chemicals which when entered into water systems can harm aquatic life.



### ⚠ Don't throw medicines into the garbage bin.

Household medicines disposed this way end up in exposed landfill sites.

## RUM provides a far better alternative

By returning out-of-date and unwanted medicines to our local pharmacy, we can make our home a safer place. Help safeguard our community and protect our environment.

## This is all we need to do... it really is easy



**Step 1:** sort through your medicine cabinet and drawers, putting to one side the out-of-date and unwanted medicines



**Step 2:** take them to your local pharmacy



**Step 3:** give them to your pharmacist for proper disposal, and...



**Step 4:** tell your friends and relatives about the RUM project.

