

Australian Design Award for unique blood collection device.

Queensland-based medical devices company Medigard Limited has been presented with an Australian Design Award for the company's unique blood collection device, the Medigard Sharps Collector RV255, at a glittering ceremony held at the Melbourne Museum last night.

Medigard Chairman, Mr. Don Channer said that the Medigard Sharps Collector RV255, which is currently undergoing an evaluation at Griffith University's Genomics Research Centre, was designed by Medigard with engineering assistance from ADA award winning CMD Design, and is aimed squarely at the growing needlestick injury toll.

He said: "A 10 year study at Brisbane's Princess Alexandra Hospital, reported in The Australian in June of last year, showed that more than one needle stick injury occurred for every two days of hospital operation – and those figures are believed to have increased since the completion of the study.

"This award not only recognises our Sharps Collector as leading edge design, easy to use and simple in operation, it also offers to anyone who collects blood a higher degree of safety than is currently available. I believe we lead the field in Australia if not internationally.

"With the escalating cost of needlestick injuries, anything that can prevent injury and serious complications and save money has to be worthwhile – and our Sharps Collector RV255 does."

Mr. Channer said that the Medigard system operates in exactly the same way as a traditional blood collection device that is commonly used in hospitals and other medical facilities for taking blood, however, users usually have to unscrew the needle to dispose of it, before sending the body of the device for cleaning and re-use.

With the Medigard Sharps Collector the user simply completes the blood collection using vacuumised containers and at the end inserts Medigard's unique plunger which is hollow and contains a vacuum. Simple operation of the plunger causes the release of the needle from its stable connection at the tip of the barrel back into the vacuum tube where it is fully enclosed. The entire device can then be safely disposed of – needlestick injuries are not possible.

With some A\$5 billion annually being spent a year in the United States for treating needlestick injuries to healthcare workers, Medigard believes there is a great future for their Medigard Sharps Collector RV255.