**The Hon. Scott Morrison, MP Prime Minister of Australia**

Dear Prime Minister,

I write to you with an important issue that I believe requires your attention.

Our Australian public hospitals do great work in caring for those in need. But I have been made aware that while patients can get band aids, bandages, painkillers or incontinence aids while in hospital, women and girls cannot access free sanitary items such as period products or maternity pads when they need them.

What happens when one of the 1 in 8 women with endometriosis arrives in hospital on her period? Do we turn her around and send her to the shops? What about when a woman arrives at the Emergency Department battered and bruised from her partner, and on her period. She is frightened and has no money… what is she to do?

[Share the Dignity’s campaign](https://www.sharethedignity.org.au/end-period-poverty/pad-up-public-health), #PadUpPublicHealth, has highlighted this issue, which is clearly not talked about enough. [They launched a federal petition](https://www.aph.gov.au/e-petitions/petition/EN3939) asking for it to be federally mandated that pads are provided in Australian public hospitals. Their petition closed on the 16/03/22 and received 53,259 signatures.

I am shocked by how many women have been forced to bleed through their hospital gowns and use unsuitable alternatives like dressings, because period products are not available.

I find it extraordinary that our Australian health system does not have the means to help patients manage their period with dignity. Women and girls shouldn’t have to worry about how they will manage their period at any point, but especially when they are sick and vulnerable. Period products should be free and easily accessible in all hospitals for women and girls who need them.

I have been advised that the solution lies with the Australian government to make it federally mandated that pads must be supplied in public hospitals. I believe that your voice and advocacy can make a difference for women and girls in this country, and I implore you to stand with us and lead by example.

I look forward to hearing from you on what actions you could take to remedy this issue.

Yours faithfully,

Advocate for Change