



Who is Share the Dignity?

In 2015, Share the Dignity was founded after identifying there was a genuine need to provide vulnerable women, girls and those who menstruate in our community with essential period products. It was reported that these people are often forced to choose between buying food to eat or buying expensive period products to get through their periods.

Share the Dignity works to make a real, on-the-ground difference in the lives of those experiencing homelessness or fleeing domestic and family violence, ensuring that everyone is afforded the dignity in life that so many of us take for granted. We distribute period products to those in need and work to end period poverty here in Australia. When someone is doing it tough, the last thing on their mind should be dealing with their period.

We are proud to partner with over 3,000 charities nationally, helping them to assist the women, girls and those who menstruate who desperately need access to period products. This is achieved through our **Dignity Drives** and **Dignity Vending Machines**. We also distribute the gift of a bag for those in need at Christmas time through our annual **It's in the Bag** campaign.

www.sharethedignity.org.au

About the Share the Dignity in Queensland Schools Initiative

The Queensland Government has partnered with Share the Dignity to provide all Queensland state schools, outdoor and environmental education centres, and student residential facilities with the opportunity to install Dignity Vending Machines (DVM) at their site, which will provide free period packs to students. Providing students with free access to period products at school will contribute to students' wellbeing and improve their readiness to engage at school.

The initiative aims to contribute to positive educational outcomes and alleviate emotional distress for students by allowing them to focus on their education rather than on accessing supplies to manage their period.

What is a Dignity Vending Machine (DVM)?

The Dignity Vending Machine is a world-first innovation that dispenses a free period pack at the push of a button. There are two options for packs – a mixed pack, which contains 2 pads and 6 tampons, or a pad-only pack, which contains 3 pads.

Each Dignity Vending Machine is programmed with a delivery delay of 3 minutes (which can be increased to up to 10 mins, if required) to ensure no period packs are wasted.

Share the Dignity were shocked to discover that people were using rolled up toilet paper and hand towels to manage their periods. We could not believe that people were having to choose between feeding their family or buying period products.

The desire to address this issue fueled the creation of the Dignity Vending Machine. Lack of access to period products can lead to young people missing school in order to manage their period. The installation of Dignity Vending Machines in state schools across Queensland will ensure that students will not miss school because of not being able to afford period products.

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