**Mr / Ms <insert first name / surname>, MP**

Dear <insert local MP name>,

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

Our local hospital, <Insert hospital name >, does great work in caring for those in need. But are you aware that while patients can get band aids, bandages, painkillers or incontinence aids in hospital, women and girls cannot access free sanitary items such as period products or maternity pads when they need them?

[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 read harrowing stories from women who 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 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 am writing to you to ask for your support of Share the Dignity’s petition. I believe that your voice and advocacy can make a difference for women and girls in this state, and I implore you to stand with Share the Dignity as they campaign to make this federally mandated.

I look forward to hearing from you about how you plan to support Share the Dignity’s petition.

Yours faithfully,

Advocate for Change