ABOUT THE INITIATIVE

For many young students, getting their first period can be confusing, overwhelming, and, at times, isolating. Without access to the right products and education, some students may feel embarrassed, anxious, or even avoid school altogether.

Recognising this challenge, the Queensland Government and Share the Dignity partnered in 2021 to introduce Dignity Vending Machine (DVMs) into all Queensland state schools, outdoor education centres, and student residential facilities. The DVM is a world-first innovation that dispenses a free period pack at the push of a button.



THE DVM

Dignity Vending Machine®



Capacity to hold 59 packs

3-minute timer between vends to reduce misuse (can be changed to 5 or 10 if needed)

QR code to 'Education Hub', Share the Dignity's one-stop-shop for all things menstruation

Weight: 30kgs / Length: 92cm / Width: 60cm / Height: 20cm

AND THE IMPACT? INCREDIBLE.

"I have one lovely year six girl who came to my office with a cookie from the tuckshop. She is a little poppet that we have been supplying products to since she was in grade 4. She bought me a cookie with her lunch money to say thank you and that now she doesn't have to come down and bother me anymore! I told her she can come bother me whenever she likes but that I was glad she was able to access products when she needed. She then asked me if it was ok to take them home as well because she has 5 older sisters, and they won't share with her, and her mum says they can't afford any more products... some days break your heart and then other days your heart gets filled to overflowing with the installation of a machine on a wall. It is however, so much more than a machine on a wall."

Over 900 DVMS installed

Over 300,000 Period Packs dispensed

PERIOD PACK STOCK

The DVMs dispense free Period Packs at the push of a button. There are two types of Period Packs available (noting only one type can be stocked in the machine at a time):

1. Mixed Packs - these packs contain 6 tampons and 2 pads, designed to provide as much choice as possible.
2. Pad-Only Packs - contain 3 UltraThin pads, designed with younger students in mind, and those who prefer to use pads.

More stock can be ordered via a QR code on the side of the machine, and is delivered to the school free of charge.



HOW TO REGISTER

Registering is quick and easy!

1. Head to OnePortal
2. Search for 'Share the Dignity'
3. Complete the quick survey to register your school!

CONTACT US

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us:

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share the dignity | dignity vending machines

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Queensland Government

SHARE THE DIGNITY IN QUEENSLAND SCHOOLS

