



Inquiry into annual and financial reports 2024–2025

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Miss Laura Nuttall MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Women

In relation to: Women's affairs policy and services and Free period products

Hearing: 11 November 2025

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MS TOUGH: Thank you. I was going to ask about the ministerial advisory council, but I think Miss Nuttall covered everything. So just interested in the roll out of period products, whether that is now complete or whether there is further steps to progress that roll out?

Dr Paterson: Yes. This is very exciting, and this has been a great initiative rolling out across schools, libraries family centres in the ACT. And yes, really successful and really amazing to see school communities embrace period products in their facilities. So yes, the pilot commenced this year. These have seen product dispensers in targeted ACT government locations. In— I might go— Tina, if you have more to add?

Ms Connor: Yes, sure. So as of October 2025, period product dispensers were installed in three child and family centres, that is West Belconnen, Tuggeranong and Gungahlin. The Child Development Service at Holder, Housing ACT Service Centre in Belconnen, eight ACT Libraries, so that is all except the Heritage Library, ACT courts, ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal, and 31 pilot schools, including primary, high school and colleges, Canberra Hospital and the University of Canberra Hospital, Community Health Centres and walk-in centres and CIT Woden and Tuggeranong. And for the broader roll out, we are still in negotiations in relation to other public places, so that would see it expand to CIT Bruce, Gungahlin and Fyshwick as well.

MS TOUGH: Thank you. Is there works, you said 31 schools?

Ms Connor: Yes, correct.

MS TOUGH: Is there work with the other, I am going to say approximately 60 schools in how we get into those schools? And is it a mix of high schools and primary schools?

Ms Connor: Yes, so that is—

MS TOUGH: And colleges?

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Ms Bogiatzis: So the roll out of period products commenced in a pilot phase. And so that was deliberated fairly contained to see what uptake was like and understand usage. To help us do that as well we are receiving information from the supplier, Rentokil, who sort of go out to the various sites and maintain the dispensers with the products and give us good information on usage. But we are also looking at a Your Say consultation process. In addition to usage data and we want to talk to other stakeholders to understand from their perspectives how successful the pilot has been. And that will inform a broader roll out.

Dr Paterson: And I think the Your Say consultation finished yesterday. So it had a range of questions, asking the community how they would use the products? If they had, are they aware of them? This type of thing. So that will then inform next stages. And they will be subject to future budget consideration.

MS TOUGH: Wonderful. Have you had any reports of vandalism or people just completely emptying the dispensers?

Ms Bogiatzis: No, I have not heard anything.

MS TOUGH: Awesome.

Ms Bogiatzis: It has been really positive so far.

MS TOUGH: Yes, that is what I wanted to hear. But I just wanted to check.

Dr Paterson: Yes.

MS TOUGH: Awesome. It was more just the vandalism, opening and throwing them everywhere and that sort of thing. Awesome, thank you.

THE CHAIR: Thank you. A supplementary?

MISS NUTTALL: Is that all right? But did you—

THE CHAIR: You also have one, sorry, Miss Nuttall.

MS BARRY: No, that is okay. You go first.

MISS NUTTALL: I think you were first.

MS BARRY: No, you go first.

THE CHAIR: I will go. Okay.

MISS NUTTALL: I am wondering, were any free period product provided in allgender or men's bathrooms as well, noting that some men get their period?

Dr Paterson: Good question. I believe that—I am not 100 per cent sure.

Ms Connor: Yes, we might have to take the exact details of that on notice. But yes, there was definitely consideration about placement in bathrooms other than just the women's bathrooms.

Dr Paterson: Yes.

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Dr Marisa Paterson MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

Dispensers with free period products have been installed in all-gender bathrooms in some ACT Government locations, and are accessible to all people. Locations with all gender bathrooms include ACT public libraries, ACT Courts, ACAT, the Canberra Hospital, University of Canberra Hospital, Community Health Centres and Walk-in Centres, Child and Family Centres, CIT campuses, Housing Service Centre, and 220 London Circuit.

At ACT public schools, all students can access period products on request.

In locations with limited facilities, priority has been given to all-gender and women's bathrooms. Dispensers have not yet been installed in men's bathrooms.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Social Policy

Signature:

M. Paterson

Date:

19/11/25

By the Minister for Women, Dr Marisa Paterson MLA

