

From: Amy Jowers [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 14 February 2023 5:10 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: [REDACTED]

Attachments: [REDACTED]

Categories: Nappy Waste

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Hi Adam

[REDACTED]

I did want to urge the ACT government not to invest funding in vending machine infrastructure as the funds are far better spent on reusable, sustainable items. The basis for the machines being adopted appear to be a) to prevent people trying to exchange period products at shops (a food poverty issue) and b) to minimise waste. I think we must always be addressing all forms of poverty and not implementing a control to address period poverty which fails to address food poverty. I also feel that the misuse of period products reflects a need for education and is not a good rationalisation for gatekeeping access. Providing items in a vending machine where there are only 2 pads and 2 tampons doesn't meet an individual's need for their entire period and anecdotally, Paula McIntosh has said that there is a lot of waste material generated. In her school items not needed from the vending period pack were discarded and wasted.

When I was recently overseas in a UK pub (see photo attached), single use period products were available in every cubicle in the Women's toilet. It shows that it is possible to normalise availability of items in public spaces, any misuse or wastage is highly likely to diminish over time. This is highly preferable to a vending machine for single use items. The infrastructure cost for a machine (\$10,000) would go some way to funding a significant volume of sustainable period products.

There are great initiatives available: Canvey Island in the UK offers free sustainable period products at Foodbanks; alongside training and education on how to use and care for sustainable items. Free menstrual cups have been issued for free in several US universities as a sustainability measure. Scotland are providing free items at pharmacies and community centres with a PickUpMyPeriodApp to help people find their local providers. Accessing items from the. School uniform shop and online for sustainable items would be increase accessibility too.

I also wanted to draw attention to the Mornington Peninsula Shire Council rebate for plastic free periods - see final image.

I hope this information is helpful for the Committee.

Thank you

Amy

Amy Blain

Ainslie Community Pantry Leadership Team/Buy Nothing Ainslie Admin Team
Australian Parents for Climate Action Canberra Rep & Peoples Climate Assembly
Program Manager - Redraw the Balance ACT
Co-Founder Young Women Speak Out
Director & ACT Rep Girls' Uniform Agenda



I acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the lands upon which I work and live, the Ngunnawal, Ngambri and Ngarigu people. I pay my respects to their Elders past, present and emerging and to any First Nations people receiving my correspondence.



Plastic free period products

– there's a rebate for that!

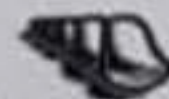


Have you had enough of buying tampons and pads every month, producing more landfill than you feel comfortable with?

If you've been wanting to try period briefs, menstrual cups or other reusable menstrual products, we can help offset some of the cost. We offer a one-off rebate of up to \$50. Better for your wallet, better for the planet!

To find out more go to our webpage or use the QR code above:

 mornpen.vic.gov.au/period



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