



Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2023–2024

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Ms Chiaka Barry MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Education and Early Childhood

Redirected to:

Reference: Education and Early Childhood

Hearing: 17 February 2025

In relation to: Period products in schools

Question received: 20/02/2025

Answer Due: 28/02/25

I note with concern that children who experience a period related emergency in schools currently have to go to the school office and ask for period products.

Given the potential for embarrassment, why do school students have to go to the front office to ask for period products if they have an emergency?

Why can't these products simply be placed in toilets as they are in this Assembly?

I note Ministers statements of priorities for 2025 indicate that there is a plan to rollout of vending machines.

Can you describe how these machines will operate?

Can you clarify the timeframes and plans for roll-out of these vending machines?

Can you also clarify the costs for supply and installation of these vending machines, and the anticipated cost of stocking them for a full school year.

Ms Yvette Berry MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

The ACT Government is committed to providing period products to students in ACT Public Schools.

The Education Directorate supports schools to meet their legislative obligations under the *Period Products and Facilities (Access) Act 2023* through providing period product supplies for free.

The specific approach to providing access to period products in ACT Public Schools is a decision of each school. Schools determine the best approach for their school community, considering factors including suitable location of products, student age, privacy and dignity.

Most schools provide period products at the front office, while some also make period products available in school bathrooms, with and without dispensers.

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The Education Directorate will be trialling an enhanced provision of period products in 32 schools, including the option to use dispensers, to inform decisions on the most effective model to meet the needs of students and schools.

Procurement for supplying period product dispensers in ACT Schools is underway. Costs for supply and installation of dispensers, as well as timeframes for installation and operation of dispensers will be known once the procurement is finalised.

The anticipated cost to stock a dispenser for a full school year is expected to differ at each school, given usage is driven by demand. The anticipated cost will be confirmed once procurement is finalised.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Social Policy

Signature.

By the Minister for Education and Early Childhood, Ms Yvette Berry MLA

Date:

27/02/25