



Graduate Women WA

office@graduatewomenwa.org.au
PO Box 48 Nedlands 6909

e-News

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Period Poverty. An educational and a human rights issue here in WA.

Labour Member Scottish Parliament Monica Lennon has campaigned since 2016 to end 'period poverty'. Her bill, the Period Products (Free Provision) (Scotland) Bill, introduced in 2020, has now made the provision of menstrual sanitary items obligatory for local councils.

In Australia all states and territories **except Western Australia and the Northern Territory** provide some level of access to free period products in public schools. This is not mandated by law but is the result of campaign such as those run by Share the Dignity.

The problem of affordability of these sanitary products has significant impact on school attendance. Sometimes the issue is further exacerbated by the embarrassment of having to purchase these items in supermarkets. Sanitary pads and tampons are as essential to menstruating women as toilet paper. Provision of these should be free in public toilet facilities. This is something that is not only an issue in developing countries.

GWWA congratulates Share the Dignity on its role in making this important conversation heard across Australia.

In the ACT, Labor's Suzanne Orr introduced a bill to fight period poverty on August 4th.

#periodpoverty #MenstruationMatters #sharethedignity

Australia does not charge GST on the sale of period products (and since Brexit Britain has been able to remove the 5% VAT).

World **Menstrual Hygiene Day** is observed on May 28 every year to spread awareness, break the taboos and end the stigma around menstruation.