

MEDIA RELEASE



Subject: Murray Bridge Library Introduces Free Period Product Vending Machine in partnership with Share the Dignity

**Contact: Heather Barclay / Chief Executive Officer
08 8539 1174 / h.barclay@murraybridge.sa.gov.au**

Date: Wednesday 24 January 2024

In an innovative step to support community health, the Murray Bridge Library has collaborated with Australian non-profit Share the Dignity to introduce a vending machine which dispenses free sanitary products.

The partnership between the Murray Bridge Library and Share the Dignity was inspired by the local volunteer group, Friends of Murray Bridge Public Library incorporated. Members of this group had observed the benefits of Share the Dignity Vending Machines in other regional locations and believed that a similar vending machine located at the Murray Bridge Library would greatly benefit the local community. The initiative was enabled by sponsorship from the Cygnett Women's National Basketball League (WNBL) team, The Adelaide Lightning. This collaboration marks a significant step towards ensuring that essential sanitary items are accessible to all members of the community, irrespective of their financial situation.

Located in the Parent's Room of the Murray Bridge Library, the vending machine offers 'pink packs', each containing six tampons and two pads. This ensures immediate and private access to these essential items, addressing a critical need in the community. This initiative aims to ensure that no one in the community is without essential sanitary items due to financial constraints or personal circumstances.

Share the Dignity, is dedicated to ensuring everyone has access to basic sanitary products, especially amidst rising living costs. Recognising that many struggle to afford these necessities, the organisation has developed a vending machine that provides quick and discreet access to period products.

Heather Barclay, Chief Executive Officer at the Rural City of Murray Bridge, highlighted the significance of this initiative.

"This vending machine at our library is more than just a convenience; it's a statement that our Public Library is a welcoming, safe space that is inclusive and that provides many types of services and support".

"It's a practical step by the Rural City of Murray Bridge to address Menstrual Health - a global health and human rights issue. We know that unmet Menstrual Health needs can impact the health, safety and wellbeing of individuals. This vending machine will go a

murraybridge.sa.gov.au

 [@ruralcitymurraybridge](https://www.facebook.com/ruralcitymurraybridge)

 [@ruralcityofmurraybridge](https://www.instagram.com/ruralcityofmurraybridge)

council@murraybridge.sa.gov.au

 [Rural City of Murray Bridge](https://www.youtube.com/RuralCityofMurrayBridge)

 [RuralCityOfMurrayBridge](https://www.linkedin.com/RuralCityOfMurrayBridge)

long way to help empower and alleviate some of the challenges that many people in our community may face", said Ms Barclay.

The Murray Bridge Library is proud to be the first location in the Murraylands area to offer this essential service. The Share the Dignity vending machine is accessible during the library's operating hours. For specific times, please visit the library [website](#).

Murray Bridge Library Contact Information:

Address: Level 2, Market Place, 51 South Terrace, Murray Bridge SA 5253

Phone: 08 8539 1175

Email: library@murraybridge.sa.gov.au