

Periods are a fact of life for half the population.

Period.

Despite this, ākonga don't always have access to the products they need to feel comfortable at school, engage in their learning, and manage what should be a normal and healthy part of life.

We recognise that access to period products is a necessity, not a luxury. Poor access to period products can affect attendance and engagement at school. Ākonga miss out on sporting and cultural activities and can feel embarrassed and ashamed, affecting their achievement and wellbeing.

By providing free products your school or kura can help ensure every ākonga can continue to participate.

Free period products in schools.

This started as a trial in 15 schools and kura in the Waikato. Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, with ākonga saying they value being heard and feel cared for.

We are now giving all schools and kura the opportunity to opt-in and receive free period products for all ākonga.

Providing free period products at school is one way we can make a positive impact on the wellbeing of ākonga.

12%

of New Zealand year 9-13 ākonga who had their period reported having difficulty getting menstrual items due to cost.

19%

of Māori and Pacific ākonga reported ever experiencing period poverty.

**ALMOST
95k**

9 to 18 year olds are unable to afford period products, which can prevent them from attending school.

Source: University of Otago.

**— Access to period products
in schools and kura.**

Period products should be available in schools and kura. **Period.**

How this would look in your school:

In the 15 schools and kura we trialled the initiative, suppliers provided products in a variety of ways. Feedback was that ākongā really valued choice, both in product and how it was made available to them.

In many schools and kura ākongā were able to make a bulk order for three or more months worth of product. They also had choice around their preferred product type. Suppliers worked with schools on the best way to manage this to ensure delivery was discrete and supported the privacy of ākongā.

“I’m hugely grateful that we now have access to pads and tampons and I hope they will continue to be supplied.”

“It makes me feel like I don’t need to worry about getting my period at school anymore because I know there are products for me there.”

Some schools and kura had extra supply or a vending machine installed in a bathroom. Feedback was positive as ākongā felt this was a discrete way to access product when they needed it.

31
March

Your school or kura has the opportunity to opt-in to the initiative. Opt-in by 31 March 2021 to be included in the first phase of the national roll-out. Product will arrive in schools from the end of Term 2 2021. Schools can continue to opt-in but delivery will be delayed.

To opt-in and for more information on the initiative please visit www.education.govt.nz

Opt into this initiative to empower your ākongā.

— Access to period products in schools and kura.