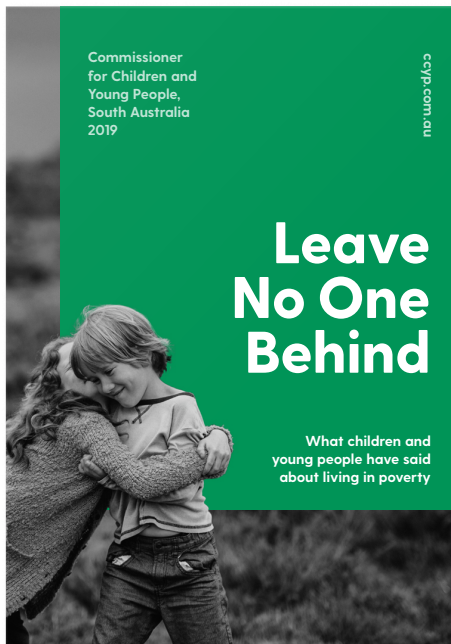


# Sanitary Product Supply to School Students in South Australia

Commissioner for  
Children & Young People

22/11/2019



An issue highlighted in the Commissioner for Children and Young People's recent report **Leave No One Behind**, was 'period poverty'. The report on young people's perceptions and experiences of poverty in South Australia identified that some girls are missing school because the household can't afford sanitary products.

To follow up on this CCYP contacted 48 public high schools in metro and regional areas to ask teachers and administrators about the availability of sanitary products for students. These schools represent a broad cross section of metropolitan and rural locations.

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## The scope of the problem

**100%** of schools contacted have some sort of informal or semiformal response to address this issue. However, the vast majority of these were 'emergency measures' often championed by individual teachers who are not always available or on campus.

Word of mouth is the only way students can know about getting access in **55%** of the schools. With a number of schools 'unsure of exactly how students know'. Typically, the staff report things like 'the girls just know where to go'.

**74%** of schools believe that access to sanitary products is an issue for their students.

**11%** of schools discussed access to sanitary products on campus and this typically takes place in year 8 in health and wellbeing units. However, this did not appear to lead to a coordinated or consistent approach to access on campus.

**11%** of schools reported that this is having an impact on student attendance. The schools where this happens are more likely to be rural and/or be in an area of concentrated disadvantage.

