

Question on Notice

No. 693

Asked on 25 May 2023

DR C ROWAN ASKED MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND MINISTER FOR RACING (HON G GRACE)

QUESTION:

With reference to the Share the Dignity initiative—

Will the Minister advise (a) how many schools to date, out of the initial 120 state and non-state schools, have had access to free sanitary products through the installation of a Dignity Vending Machine, (b) how many schools are approved and waiting installation and (c) how many schools registered in term one of the 2023 school year to have a Dignity Vending Machine installed in their school?

ANSWER:

In October 2020, the Palaszczuk Government committed up to \$2.5 million over three years to partner with Share the Dignity to provide free period products to students in 120 Queensland schools through installation of Dignity Vending Machines (DVM).

Through contract negotiations with the Department of Education to deliver on the *Share the Dignity in Queensland schools* initiative (the initiative), Share the Dignity agreed to install more than the original commitment of 120 DVMs. Through the contract, Share the Dignity committed to installing a total of 155 DVMs (139 state and 16 non-state), including:

- 62 in 2021–22 (Round 1);
- 76 by 31 March 2023 (Round 2); and
- 17 by 18 August 2023 (Round 3).

As at 29 May 2023, DVMs have been installed in 138 schools (including 16 non-state schools). The list of state and non-state schools with a DVM installed is publicly available at www.education.qld.gov.au/students/student-health-safety-wellbeing/student-health/share-the-dignity.

The 17 remaining schools are scheduled to have their DVM installed by 18 August 2023.

Following an Expression of Interest (EOI) process in 2022, 182 schools applied for a DVM through the initiative.