

Presented to	Ordinary Meeting of Council to be held Tuesday, 15 July 2025.
Related to Item	Item 15.1 Notice of Motion
Submitted by	Acting Director Community Development
Attachments	Nil

This Officer Advice Note is provided in relation to 15.1 Notice of Motion, proposed by Deputy Mayor Cr K Wheatland to be presented to the Ordinary Meeting of Council to be held on Tuesday, 15 July 2025.

Background

The motion seeks to explore how the City of Melville can contribute to menstrual equity through potential partnership with Share the Dignity Limited (Share the Dignity) and/or other related initiatives/organisations. The Notice of Motion highlights the importance of equitable access to menstrual products and support services as a public health and inclusion issue, particularly for vulnerable populations.

Share the Dignity Limited is registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission based out of Queensland that was founded in 2015 after identifying there was a need to provide vulnerable women in the community with essential period products.

The organisation undertakes several advocacy and partnership initiatives with the mission of “We aim to bring dignity to women, girls and those who menstruate who are experiencing homelessness, domestic violence, and period poverty through the distribution of period products”.

As per the Share the Dignity Annual Report 2024, the organisation collected and distributed over \$13 million of donated period products to women, girls and those who menstruate around Australia through some of the following (but not limited to) initiatives:

- Community Fundraising events (Charity Balls, events tied in with International Women’s Day etc).
- Corporate partnerships with percentage of sales of items or general donations going to Share the Dignity.
- Corporate drives for community members to donate menstrual products.

Share the Dignity’s Council Care’s program involves three non-mandatory key initiatives including:

1. Providing free period products through ‘Dignity Vending Machines’ that disperse free period product packs and/or alternative methods. It is understood that each Dignity Vending Machine costs \$25,000 to build, install and maintain for four years with period product packs (packs contain six tampons and two pads).
2. Access to the Share the Dignity ‘Education Hub’ that provides information to assist raise awareness and understanding and ensure people are informed to break down barriers and develop a supportive community.
3. Offering a reusable period product rebate for residents purchasing sustainable period products such as menstrual cups or period underwear.

Importantly the City, since June 2022 the City has been offering a Reusable Menstrual Product Rebate where residents can receive a 50% rebate for the purchase of reusable menstrual products to a maximum of \$50. Residents may apply once every three years. Furthermore, the Willagee Community Centre offers free menstrual products in the female toilets.

Engagement Implications

To inform the feasibility report, City Officers propose the engagement to:

- Understand the communities' needs and expectations.
- Assess the level of City involvement.

A targeted engagement program would be developed and the following at a minimum would be consulted with:

- Melville Sounding Board: Targeting 188 members with a stated interest in Health and Wellbeing via an email survey.
- External stakeholders: Share the Dignity, Department of Health
- Internal stakeholders: City Officers operating Libraries, Community Centres, LeisureFit, as well as relevant stakeholders who work across community development and sustainability.

Financial Implications

While the motion does not propose implementation, the following resource commitments are anticipated for the feasibility investigation:

- Internal officer time across Health Promotion, Community Development, Sustainability, Community Centres: \$5,221.0 (approx.)
- Activities include stakeholder engagement, survey delivery and analysis, and report preparation.

These costs will be managed within existing budgets, noting potential reallocation from other planned work.

Resourcing Implications

To develop the feasibility report, internal staff resources will be used. To meet the timeframe, the draft Healthy Melville Plan will be deferred as well as to address point 5 of the Notice of Motion.

Legislative and Policy Implications

The proposal is not mandated under current legislation but aligns with broader public health principles.

The City's Public Health Plan ('Healthy Melville Plan') is currently in draft. Notably, Part 5 of the *Public Health Act 2016* requires local governments to prepare and publish their local public health plans by 4 June 2026.

The currently drafted Healthy Melville plan is required to align with the objectives and priorities of the State Public Health Plan 2025-2030 while also meeting local needs. Currently the draft plan does not include menstrual objectives as the focus is toward chronic disease prevention.

Consequence or Alternative Options

Should this Notice of Motion be resolved by Council, City Officers will defer the finalisation of the draft Healthy Melville Plan until the feasibility report has been considered by Council.