

Media Release

The Hon Natalie Hutchins MP
Minister for Government Services
Minister for Treaty and First Peoples
Minister for Prevention of Family Violence
Minister for Women



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TRAVEL SMOOTHLY WITH FREE TRAIN STATION PADS AND TAMPONS

Victorians can now access free pads and tampons at train stations thanks to an expansion of the Allan Labor Government's nation-leading program – supporting commuters when they need it most.

Minister for Women Natalie Hutchins today announced the launch of the next stage of the statewide vending machine rollout which will give commuters convenient access on-the-go at up to 55 train stations.

Vending machines have been rolled out in many train station bathrooms including Flinders Street, North Melbourne, Melbourne Central, Flagstaff, Werribee, Newport, Footscray and Essendon.

Train stations are among Victoria's busiest public spaces. People can be caught off guard while they travel, and access to free pads and tampons can make the difference between getting on with the day comfortably or heading home abruptly.

One in five women and girls report that they can't afford the period products they need every month. Since the launch of the program in November 2024, more than 310,000 packs have been dispensed – saving families hundreds of thousands of dollars.

More than 760 free pad and tampon machines have been installed in public libraries, TAFEs, cultural institutions, sports centres, community facilities and hospitals through the Labor Government's \$23 million investment to make period products freely available across the state.

To find an interactive map of pads and tampons vending machines along your commute, visit betterhealth.vic.gov.au/free-pads-and-tampons.

Quote attributable to Minister for Women Natalie Hutchins

"Whether you're heading to work, school or home, no one should have their day disrupted because they can't access a pad or tampon – our machines make sure help is there when it's needed."

"Period products are essentials, so making them freely available in our busiest public spaces sends a clear message that location and financial situations are no longer a barrier."

Quote attributable to Minister for Public and Active Transport Gabrielle Williams

"Millions of Victorians are on the move across our public transport network every week – providing free period products at train stations means passengers can easily access essential products, where and when they need them."

Quote attributable to Metro Head of Stations Chloe Smith

"Metro Trains is pleased to be part of the program to have free period products at train stations across Victoria. Vending machines are being installed in stations across the network for easy access by passengers."