



# MEDIA RELEASE

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## Casey Cardinia Libraries help Share the Dignity

Casey Cardinia Libraries are pitching in to assist women and girls experiencing poverty or homelessness by helping to collect personal hygiene products as part of the bi-annual Share the Dignity Drive.

Share the Dignity is a charity organisation founded by Rochelle Courtenay that seeks to provide the basic essentials for women and girls in crisis by sending the call out for unopened packets of pads, tampons and personal hygiene products to distribute to women nationwide.

Ms Courtenay said the drive helps in some small way to alleviate the undignified situation thousands of women have to endure – forced to make a choice between buying food or buying feminine hygiene products.

“So many women, every month, have to forfeit sanitary products because they cannot afford them. Many mothers have to choose between buying tampons and feeding their children. Girls miss out on school simply because their families cannot afford to buy the basic necessities,” she said.

“When you donate sanitary products to Share the Dignity, you’re donating much more than pads and tampons. You’re giving a woman experiencing homelessness or financial crisis the essentials, so she doesn’t need to choose between food and dignity. Next time you’re doing your shopping, keep in mind: one box for me, one box for her.”

Casey Cardinia Libraries CEO Chris Buckingham said the team at CCL understand how important it is that everyone in our community feels respected, welcome and safe.

“Share the Dignity is about helping people who are in need. Homelessness and family violence are big challenges for our community and people can make a real difference close to home with small acts of kindness,” Mr Buckingham said.

“We are delighted to support this campaign by providing collection points in all of our libraries for donated pads, tampons and personal hygiene products. Just look for the pink collection boxes at your local library.”

The collection drive is on during March with distribution to registered charities taking place in May

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### Photo opportunity

To arrange a photo opportunity with local library staff and the special pink collection boxes please contact Erin Commerford.

Casey Cardinia Libraries is a network of public library services throughout Melbourne's south-east metropolitan corridor with branches located at Cranbourne, Doveton, Emerald, Endeavour Hills, Hampton Park, Narre Warren and Pakenham. A weekly Mobile library service also visits sites throughout Cardinia Shire. Library membership is free and open to everyone.

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