

MAKING IKURA PRODUCTS ACCESSIBLE FOR ĀKONGA



Te Tāhuhu o
te Mātauranga
Ministry of Education

We often hear feedback from schools and kura about what they are doing to support ākonga to access ikura (period) products. We've compiled these ideas to share with you. We hope it is helpful for your school or kura.

ĀKONGA CAN TAKE AS MUCH AS THEY NEED

The initiative supports ākonga to take product home with them during school term and school holidays to cover their full menstrual cycle. That is around two and a half packs of product for each ākonga every month.

"A couple of weeks before the holidays, I send out an email to students and their caregivers reminding them to pop in and collect their products to cover the holidays. This also covers any students who don't start at the beginning of the year."

RAISING AWARENESS

The initiative aims to relieve financial pressures for whānau. Ensuring ākonga and whānau are aware of what products are available and how they can access them is so important.

Some schools and kura have done this as a regular feature in their newsletters, in assemblies, at whānau hui and via social media posts

"We have whole packets available for those that want more and allowing them to take multiple packs for several months has worked well."

SET UP AN ORDERING SYSTEM

Some schools have fed back to us that having ākonga or whānau complete a product preference form at the beginning of each term or year helps streamline distribution – we have heard from some schools who have had great success using a google form or including in enrolment forms to collate this information. On a monthly or termly basis packs are then put together for ākonga to collect.

GET ĀKONGA INVOLVED!

Involving ākonga in the packing and distribution of ikura products is a great leadership opportunity! Ākonga can manage this by form class or arrange bi-weekly or monthly pick-ups at lunchtime from the school hall or gym.

"Our Student BoT rep ensures we are well stocked and that they are readily available in the toilet cubicles, with an extra small supply in the locker bay. It takes the embarrassment away from students having to ask for these products."

KŌRERO USING OUR RESOURCES

By talking about the Ikura initiative, you help to remove the stigma around periods. We have created a suite of resources to encourage this kōrero with ākonga and whānau. Scan the QR code to access the resources at www.education.govt.nz or order printed versions through your Ikura OfficeMax Account.



SCAN ME

Ikura
Manaakitia te whare tangata
Period Products in Schools



WHERE CAN I HAVE IKURA PRODUCT?

When thinking about where ākonga can access products, the more options the better!

Possible locations to place ikura product include:

- Office
- Gym
- Baskets in the bathroom
- Library
- Accessible storage cupboards
- First aid area, health clinic or nurses office

...Or any other safe communal spaces where ākonga can discreetly access without having to ask.

Don't forget to order brown paper bags off the OfficeMax portal and leave a stack with products so ākonga can take product home discreetly if they wish.

"Our products are stored in a room off the library. I got the windows frosted in the room to allow extra privacy for students when choosing their products and we also provide small carry bags for them to take the products home in."

SET UP RECURRING ORDERS

By now you might have a good idea of the amount of product ākonga require each month. Did you know you can set up a recurring order with OfficeMax to ensure your school or kura is kept fully stocked. Talk to your OfficeMax Account Manager who can help set this up for you.

If you don't know who your Account Manager is, you can email AccessToPeriodProducts@education.govt.nz

"Dispensers are checked daily and topped up as necessary."

DISPENSER UNITS

Dispenser units in bathrooms are great for ākonga when they are caught out. However, it is difficult for ākonga to get enough product to cover their full cycle from a dispenser unit. Dispensers should be used alongside other collection points for ikura products in your school or kura so ākonga can access product in bulk.

Dispensers have been installed in all large schools and kura who expressed an interest. If you think your school would benefit from a dispenser unit, please contact AccessToPeriodProducts@education.govt.nz.

"We have had a great response from students being able to easily access period products from the dispensers throughout our school and being able to collect monthly period packs from the Health and Wellness Centre to take home"

Ikura product can be ordered using your OfficeMax account. Visit www.education.govt.nz for more info.