



Media Release

Condom Vending Machines Installed

Residents in the Shire of Hindmarsh now have 24 hour access to safe sexual health measures after the installation of eight condom vending machines.

The project was initiated by the Hindmarsh Shire Youth Council. Youth Councillors were alarmed by statistics showing the high rates of unwanted pregnancy and STI's in Western Victoria and advocated for the installations of the machines.

Following the installation of the machines and in partnership with local secondary schools and health services, a comprehensive sexual health education program will be run in secondary schools in Dimboola, Nhill and Rainbow.

Hindmarsh Shire Council Mayor, Cr Debra Nelson said "This process has already begun in late 2016 with visits from Family Planning Victoria to secondary schools across the Hindmarsh Shire, where healthy relationships were discussed. Further education will continue into the future with programs ran through local health services in schools."

Cr Nelson continued "Following installation of the vending machines there will now be a two year trial to determine their viability. If, after the two year trial, it is determined that the machines are viable they will stay in place with no further operating costs. The machines are installed with additional safety measures to deter vandalism; however in the instance that vandalism is too great to be repaired the machines will unfortunately have to be removed."

The vending machines are located in both male and female toilets in-
Dimboola @ Behind the Library- 101 Lloyd St, Dimboola
Nhill @ Goldsworthy Park- Victoria St
Jeparit @ Menzies Square- Cnr Dimboola-Rainbow Rd and Roy St
Rainbow @ The Mecca Town Hall- Federal St, Rainbow

On behalf of the Hindmarsh Shire Youth Council, Youth Councillor Angus Robinson said "We really appreciate the support from our respective secondary schools and

health services across the Shire and the backing of the initiative by the Hindmarsh Shire Councillors”.

He added, “Being a part of the Youth Council has given us an opportunity to talk about issues like this that are often avoided. It has been great to see this project through to completion.”