

**Submission
No 68**

INQUIRY INTO PUBLIC TOILETS

Name: Lisa Donaldson

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Dear Amanda,

My name is Lisa Donaldson, and I am writing to propose an initiative that could significantly contribute to the health and well-being of our community—the installation of sunscreen dispensers in public toilets across Australia.

With Australia having one of the highest rates of skin cancer in the world, implementing such a program could have a meaningful impact in reducing cases and promoting sun-safe behaviours.

Other countries have already adopted similar measures with great success, many of which repurposed hand sanitiser dispensers from the COVID-19 pandemic for this purpose.

For example, in **the Netherlands**, more than 100 public sunscreen dispensers were installed in schools, parks, sports venues, festivals, and other high-traffic locations. The initiative, funded by private businesses and 20 municipalities, aimed to tackle the country's rising skin cancer rates by making SPF 30 sunscreen freely accessible to the public.

Similarly, in **Canada**, Memorial University in Newfoundland and Labrador launched a project to transition hand sanitiser stations into sunscreen dispensers, ensuring sun protection became as commonplace as sanitisation. Their goal was to make sun safety second nature by providing easy access to sunscreen on campus.

In **the United States**, Philadelphia installed around 20 sunscreen dispensers across the city, including in parks, pools, and sports venues like Citizens Bank Park. These were placed in areas where people might not typically carry sunscreen, making sun protection more convenient and encouraging safer outdoor habits.

These initiatives have been widely welcomed, demonstrating that small, practical steps can lead to significant public health benefits.

The key objectives of this initiative are:

1. **Accessibility** – By placing sunscreen dispensers in toilet blocks in high-traffic areas such as parks, beaches, sports facilities, and recreational spots, we can ensure that sun protection is readily available to all residents and visitors.
2. **Repurposing & Sustainability** – By following the lead of other countries and repurposing existing hand sanitiser dispensers from the COVID-19 pandemic, we can implement this initiative in a cost-effective and environmentally friendly way.
3. **Education** – Each dispenser could be accompanied by signage about the importance of sun safety, the risks of UV overexposure, and simple steps to stay protected.
4. **Prevention** – Encouraging individuals to adopt sun-safe habits, particularly during peak UV hours, will help prevent skin cancer cases and reduce the long-term burden on our healthcare system.

This initiative is deeply personal to me, as I lost both of my parents to melanoma. It is my dream to help prevent others from experiencing the same loss. By taking proactive steps like this, we can create a safer and healthier future for our communities.

I would love the opportunity to discuss this proposal further and explore ways we could implement a similar initiative in Australia. Please let me know if you'd like additional information. I truly appreciate your time and consideration.

Yours faithfully,
Lisa Donaldson

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Lisa Donaldson APD

Accredited Practising Dietitian at FEEDinc Hawker

Masters Nutrition & Dietetics, Bachelor of Edu, Cert III Fitness

www.FEEDinc.net

www.lisadonaldson.com.au