

Schools making changes.

Innovations in sustainable practices have seen Manawatu based company Disbin Ltd making an impact on New Zealand schools.

Director of Disbin Ltd, Helen Mays, says the company's sustainable alternatives have been turning a few heads.

“One woman rang me from a country primary school saying they had only one female student in need of a sanitary bin, and a commercial company wanted to charge them \$560 per year for a commercial sanitary service. We did it for under \$100.00.”

She says Disbin Ltd offers disposable, compostable sanitary bins made from recycled cardboard with a commercial strength sanitiser for \$9 per month plus gst.

“Our wall-hung sanitary bins are environmentally friendly, low carbon footprint and don't require washing or emptying. They arrive flat-packed and are installed by the cleaner, and removed when full and disposed of in the normal rubbish removal.”

Mrs Mays says when the bins go to landfill they decompose without the hindrance of plastic wrapping.

“It's a simple solution that is long overdue. Why should commercial companies capitalise on our normal bodily functions?”

Rather than a commercially driven, guilt-laden answer to “women's issues”, she says Disbin Ltd seeks to provide simple grass-roots solutions to natural female cycles.

“It's a basic biological function, and sanitary waste can be composted or disposed of in an eco-friendly manner without all the commercial contracts,” says Mrs Mays.

Recent innovations in Christchurch have seen thousands of disposable nappies composted in a HotRot composter. Mrs Mays says Disbin sanitary waste can also be treated in the HotRot composter; it's just a change of perception that is necessary.

“Councils are coming on board and are grateful for the reduction of solid waste being flushed into their sewerage systems. Overall, we know it is just a matter of time before we make a permanent shift in people's thinking about taking responsibility for sanitary waste.”