**Washable Incontinence Products vs Landfill**

In 2016 it was estimated that 4.8 million people in Australia were living with incontinence. This number is expected to rise to 6.5 million by 2020. How many of these people use disposable products that go straight into landfill? It can take up to 500 years for one product to breakdown in landfill. There is an estimated 450,000 tonnes of incontinence products going into Australian landfill sites yearly. In Australia alone 3.75 million disposable nappies are used each day and it takes approximately one cup of crude oil to make one nappy.

Not only does this place stress on our landfill sites but also creates emissions increasing our carbon footprint. Due to the high volume of untreated human waste that is not able to biodegrade naturally, there is concern of possible spreading of viruses and contamination of the earth and soaking into groundwater.

Washable products are just as dependable and user friendly and in many cases not as bulky as the equivalent disposable. Washable briefs are more cost effective with an average cost of $22.00. One pair of disposable briefs can be washed and worn at least 100 times which is an estimated 22 cents per wear. The cost of one pair of disposable briefs at $2.85 then equates to $285.00 for the equivalent usage.

Switching just one person to washable underwear would save approximately 2,200 disposable items from landfill a year. In the State of Victoria, DHHS and SWEP are leading the way by funding only washable products for consumers eligible for State continence funding. SWEP also offer these same items to those NDIS participants who choose us as their Supplier.