

SHELTERBAGS FOR THE HOMELESS SLEEPING ROUGH



Why Shelterbags

- Increasing numbers of people, young and old, homeless, and sleeping rough
- Winter is the worst time of year – bedding becomes wet and unusable
- Waste of donated resources (blankets, sleeping bags)
- Growing awareness in community of the homeless and their needs
- The need for an immediate solution that offers shelter from the elements when sleeping rough



What are Shelterbags?

- A zippered, vented swag which is waterproof, lightweight, easy to handle and has an extra compartment to store personal items
- Integrated padded mattress and padded hood
- Easy to carry when rolled up (backpack size, weighing 2.5 kg)
- Add sleeping bag or other bedding to suit conditions
- Keeps bedding dry, provides warmth and dignity
- Shelterbags are made in Cape Town, South Africa by a social workshop employing disadvantaged people

History of Shelterbags

- **Sheltersuits** was founded and developed in the Netherlands in 2014 by Bas Timmer, and distributes to the UK, Europe, USA, South Africa and Australia
- **Shelterbags** were specifically designed for warmer climates in 2019
- Shelterbags were first imported into Australia in 2019 through Rotary (Mary Crammond), distributing over 3,000 bags to date
- An example is Rotary Club Gawler Light – South Australia, who combined with 21 Rotary Clubs in SA and ordered/distributed 650 bags to people sleeping rough. Victorian and Western Australian clubs have also joined this worthwhile project.



How are they distributed?

- Shelterbags are currently imported by Rotary Terrigal, and distributed to Rotary Clubs in NSW, SA and WA.
- Rotary Clubs work together with outreach agencies and other community stakeholders in their own Local Government Area to assess individuals needs, and monitor distribution

What is the cost?

- Currently approx. \$93 per bag (includes shipping)
- Imported by the container load – 900 bags.
- Order through Rotarian Mary Crammond, email marycrammond@gmail.com

Now it's Queensland's turn to get behind this worthwhile project

Our Goals

- Our goal for this year is to have 20 clubs combine to order 200 Shelterbags - approx \$20,000
- Order and payment to be sent to Rotary by 25th September 2024 for delivery to Queensland in January/February 2025, ready 2025 for winter distribution
- Clubs or sponsors/organisations' commitments can either be \$1,000, \$2,000 – or more. Funds are not required until late September but understandably, we need a commitment letter from clubs who want to be involved, as soon as possible
- Financial details regarding invoices, account, RAWCS information, etc. will be forwarded in the near future
- Initially we would like a club member from each participating club to be nominated as a Club Liaison Officer so we can meet, discuss progress, etc. to keep members informed with the latest developments

HOW YOU CAN HELP



Determine need in your area – talk to community outreach organisations such as Salvos, Anglicare, local police etc



Establish distribution – in partnership with community organisation



Fundraise – through club activities, grants, business donations



Organise with RC Paddington for supply of required numbers of shelterbags

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