

# *Backpack Bed*<sup>®</sup>

by **Swags for Homeless**

**WINNER**  
AUSTRALIAN  
HUMAN RIGHTS  
- AWARD -

## Communication on Engagement

October 2015

*[www.BackpackBed.org](http://www.BackpackBed.org)*



reddot design award  
best of the best 2011



WINNER - POWERHOUSE MUSEUM DESIGN AWARD 2011



# Statement of continued support

His Excellency Ban Ki-moon  
Secretary General of the United Nations  
The United Nations Global Compact  
New York, NY - USA

30 October 2015

Dear Secretary General,

*Backpack Bed by Swags for Homeless* supports the Ten Principles of the United Nations Global Compact in the areas of Human Rights, Labour, Environment and Anti-Corruption.

Our organisation is delighted to renew our commitment to the principles. In this our first annual Communication on Engagement, we describe our actions to integrate the Global Compact and its principles into our culture and daily operations.

Yours sincerely,



Tony Clark  
CEO & Founder  
***Backpack Bed*** by Swags for Homeless



Lisa & Tony Clark with the *Backpack Bed*  
United Nations, New York

# Actions in support of the Principles

## 1.0 Human Rights

### 1.1 Homelessness is a Human Rights issue

*Swags for Homeless* works to improve the Human Rights of people who are homeless and do not have shelter.

This includes being actively involved with lobbying groups such as the Australian Government, politicians, government departments, corporates and other community groups on the lack of basic human rights for these people. Numerous corporates internationally support our work.

**If our society cannot adequately house homeless - then a minimum level of dignified emergency bedding should be provided.**

Providing inadequate bedding impacts on the human rights of street sleeping homeless:

- The right to health and wellbeing
- The right to personal safety
- The right to privacy
- The right to non-discrimination
- The right to freedom from cruel inhuman or degrading treatment

Our organisation was awarded an Australian Human Rights Award by the Australian Human Rights Commission in 2011 for our work.

**“All Human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.”**

*-Universal Declaration of Human Rights*



## 1.2 Backpack Bed

The *Backpack Bed* is a dignified emergency bed provided for free to street sleeping homeless people without shelter as well as connecting them with a local homeless service.

### Backpack Bed features

- Meets 47 international standards for quality and safety (independent lab testing)
- Awarded 7 international product design awards
- Fabric is waterproof, windproof, mildew resistant  
PLUS Fire retardant (meets 2 international standards)
- Mosquito mesh ventilation (head + chest + feet)
- Built-in **190cm** insulated comfort mattress (ALSO fire retardant and anti-mildew)
- Tape sealed main seams
- Full body zipped sleeping area
- Backpack with padded adjustable straps
- 3 x built-in storage pockets
- Lockable internal pocket (with supplied key lock)
- 2 x carabiner clips (clip on extra bags / belongings)
- Ultra lightweight street tough materials - weighs ONLY 3.1kg / 6.8lb



## **2.0 Labour**

Our organisation is committed to the Labour principals. This includes using factories with a BCSI accreditation for worker conditions.

## **3.0 Environment**

Our organisation is committed to the Environment principals. This includes the materials selection for the *Backpack Bed*.

We independently lab test to meet several international chemical safety standards.

## **4.0 Anti-Corruption**

Our organisation is committed to the Anti-Corruption principals. This means doing business responsibly and ethically.

# Measurement of Outcomes

## 5.0 Our Current Reach

The *Backpack Bed* is distributed to street sleeping homeless people without shelter across 7 countries.

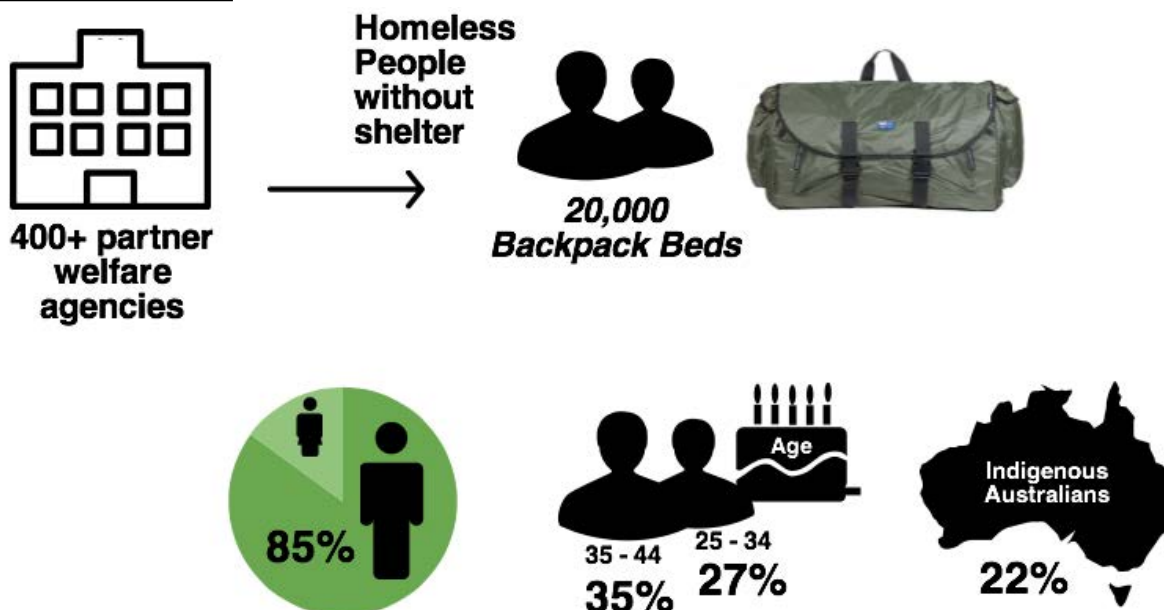
### 5.1 Australia

#### The Problem

- 40,878 men, women and children will sleep outside this year.<sup>1</sup>
- 21% in Sydney + 19% of Melbourne street sleeping homeless suffered from avoidable cold weather injuries - **hypothermia**, **frostbite** or **trench foot**.<sup>2</sup>
- 20% of NSW + 12% of VIC prisoners were sleeping on the streets before going to prison - some homeless commit **desperation crime to get shelter**.<sup>3</sup>



#### Our Current Reach



- *Backpack Beds* are study proven to improve homeless peoples dignity, health, sleep, comfort, self-esteem and safety.
- This has further cost benefits to the community - especially in the area of health & mental health.

<sup>1</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2011

<sup>2</sup> Melbourne Street 2 Home, 2010 & 2011

<sup>3</sup> Australian Housing & Urban Research Institute, 2003



"This just saved my life. This will stop me sleeping on the concrete shaking from the cold like I did last night. It will stop me getting sick. This will stop me from stealing as I was so cold I was going to steal a blanket because I was shivering. I have applied for 30 jobs with no reply yet. I was considering suicide."

-Young Homeless Man, Melbourne Australia



## 5.2 USA

### The Problem

- TONIGHT 240,837 Americans will sleep on the streets, under bridges and "other places not intended for human habitation". 38% of the total homeless population of 633,782 people.<sup>4</sup>



### Our Current Reach

- Registered as a US charity 2014
- 30 partner agencies and growing
- 900 *Backpack Beds distributed (more on the way)*

## 5.3 Internationally

### Our Current Reach

*Backpack Beds* have also been distributed to homeless people without shelter in the **United Kingdom, New Zealand, Germany, Canada and Spain.**



This was in partnership with local homeless agencies in those countries for distribution and funding.

Where funding permits we will continue this important work.

---

<sup>4</sup> The state of homelessness in America, 2013

## 6.0 Awards and Recognition

### 6.1 Human Rights

Our organisation was awarded an Australian Human Rights Award by the Australian Human Rights Commission in 2011 for our work.

Tony & Lisa Clark (co-designers of the *Backpack Bed*) have also been nominated for both the 2015 and 2016 Australian of the year awards as well as awarded a Professor Ian Frazer Humanitarian Award by Lions medical research.

### 6.2 Backpack Bed

The *Backpack Bed* has been awarded 7 international product design awards:

- 2011 Red Dot - Best of the Best, Germany
- 2011 Australian International Design Award - GOLD
- 2011 Powerhouse Museum Design Award, Australia
- 2012 Finalist International Design Excellence Awards - Social Impact Design, USA
- 2012 – Winner - Melbourne Design Awards - Sport & Leisure, Australia
- 2013 Edison Award - SILVER - Social Impact, USA
- 2013 The Australian Innovation Challenge - Winner Community Services, Australia
- 2014 A'Design Award - SILVER - Social Design, Italy
- 2014 Finalist International Design Excellence Awards - Social Impact, USA

***Backpack Bed***<sup>®</sup>

by **Swags for Homeless**



**WINNER  
AUSTRALIAN  
HUMAN RIGHTS  
- AWARD -**

Ph +61 3 9764 9422  
Fx +61 3 9764 9433

PO Box 5171 Studfield Vic 3152

***www.BackpackBed.org***