



WARM BLANKETS FOR EVERYONE

2023 KEY
HIGHLIGHTS & STATS.



OUR STORY

- ▶ Warm Blankets For Everyone (WBFE) became incorporated as a Not-for-Profit Charitable Organisation in November 2020. It has a board of 7 members to oversee the operation. WBFE currently has over 100 volunteers, who create blankets either at the Belmont workshop or at home. Currently there is the capacity to produce around 1,800 fleece backed blankets each year. Of this, approximately 1,200 blankets are made with purchased fleece and 600 from donated fleece.
- ▶ WBFE does not deal directly with people in need but supplies blankets to a range of support organisations who distribute the blankets to their clients. There are approximately 38 organisations that have been supported in recent times. Currently there are 8 local organisations that are supplied with blankets on a regular ongoing basis. There are also 6 organisations that are supplied with blankets frequently based on need. Other Organisations will approach WBFE for blankets on an adhoc basis.
- ▶ The organisations supported include Refuges, Homeless Support Groups, Crisis Centers and Rehabilitation Program Centers. The excellent quality blankets that are supplied are always greatly appreciated. The blankets not only provide warmth but comfort, support and security to those in need, including people experiencing homelessness, low income or transition out of prison.
- ▶ In 2020 and 2021 WBFE supplied over 2,000 blankets each year. In 2022 over 2,200 blankets were supplied. In 2023 WBFE supplied 2,794 blankets.
- ▶ As well as the regular deliveries some significant “one-off” contributions have been made. In 2022 & 2023 WBFE supplied 200 blankets to the We Help Ourselves Drug Rehab Centre in Cessnock; 120 Blankets to the Lismore Flood appeal and 235 blankets to support Aboriginal communities in the Northern Territory and western NSW.
- ▶ The blankets are made predominately from donated fabric and wool and the backing fleece for the blankets is mainly purchased. It is critical to provide the warmth required so quality polar fleece is used. This type of fleece is extremely popular for outdoor garments, mainly due to its thickness and warmth. It is also a popular material for blankets, as polar fleece provides outstanding protection against the cold. An additional benefit in using polar fleece is that it is made from recycled **PET** (polyethylene terephthalate) bottles.
- ▶ WBFE volunteers also raise funds to support the operation. There is an extremely proactive and dedicated Fundraising Committee which has raised around \$9,000.00 from events in the 21/22 financial year and around \$14,000 in 2023. However, the money raised by the Committee is not sufficient to cover the full cost of the WBFE operation which is between \$20,000 - \$24,000 depending on the amount of polar fleece purchased.
- ▶ Receiving Grant funding is critical to the ongoing ability for WBFE to continue to operate at the current rate and provide the support needed to meet the critical objectives of community support organisations.
- ▶ WBFE Blankets are extremely valued by our clients, and they provide great warmth, comfort and support to the most vulnerable people in our community. Unfortunately, in the current economic climate the need is increasing with the expectation the WBFE will not only continue at current levels but increase output.

Volunteers

- ▶ 105 Recorded Volunteers
 - ▶ 39 Workshop attendees
 - ▶ 30 Home based sewers
 - ▶ 25 Home based Crocheters / Knitters
- ▶ 8 Drivers
- ▶ 10 other



Fleece

- ▶ 37 rolls in storage at 1/2/23
- ▶ 116 rolls purchased during 2023
- ▶ 121 rolls taken to the Workshop
- ▶ 114 rolls used during the year
- ▶ 32 rolls in storage at 8/12/23
- ▶ 7 rolls unused at the Workshop

Blanket Pinning

- ▶ 1,148 pinned from Polar fleece
- ▶ 420 pinned from remnant fleece
- ▶ 1,568 Blankets pinned in total

Deliveries

- ▶ 1,997 Fleece Backed Blankets
- ▶ 165 Woollen Blankets
- ▶ 632 Crochet/Knitted Blankets
- ▶ 2,794 Total Blankets

Blankets on Hand

- ▶ 238 Fleece Backed Blankets
- ▶ 4 Woollen Blankets
- ▶ 122 Crochet/Knitted Blankets
- ▶ 364 Total Blankets

Blanket Recipients

- ▶ 38 Organisations/
Individuals Received our
Blankets



2023 Fundraising Success

- ▶ 8 Events Held
- ▶ \$14,500 Raised

