



“The Alfred” Mental Health Unit Care Pack Project

After hearing how people often come into our psychiatry inpatient ward without any personal items, **Rotarians from Rotary Donations in Kind**, 6 local Rotary Clubs and **St Stephen's Anglican Parish Gardenvale Opportunity shop**, took the initiative to establish a welcome care pack project.

The donated packs are being given to people when they are admitted as a psychiatry inpatient. Bronwyn, along with Pam (right in photo) and other generous donors, have filled bags full of essential items including a hair brush, socks, moisturizer, socks, lip balms, water bottles, journaling books, pens and much more.

“So many people have nothing with them when they come onto the ward,” said Elsa, Psychiatry's Chief Social Worker.

“People don't have the chance to go home and get their pyjamas or their toothbrush, they're often brought in by police or in an emergency context,” said Psychiatry Inpatient Unit Operations Manager, Fiona.

New lounge wear and underwear are also being provided for the demographic who are homeless. This is increasing and currently 50% of the ward comprises people who have been couch surfing, living in cars or on the streets. The average length of stay for people in the ward is 2 weeks, so to have relaxed and lovely clothing to wear helps enormously.

The ward comprises 58 beds and there is an average of 1200 people cared for annually. Each person will be welcomed with a care pack and those with inadequate clothing will be equipped.