

Surfers Sunrise POD in Gold Coast Bulletin of 11 November 2019



Builder Laurie Roberts, Kathleen Vlasic from Rosies, councillor Dawn Crichlow and designer Des Lrance with the mobile Sleeping Sanctuary pod and (below) just how much sleeping space is provided.

Pictures: JASON O'BRIEN

FIRST POD OFF THE RANK TO HELP HOMELESS

KATE PARASKEVOS

THE first of 20 miniature campers on wheels dubbed Sleeping Sanctuary pods has been handed over to outreach charity Rosies to help with the city's homeless crisis.

Southport councillor Dawn Crichlow has endorsed the 2m-by-1m boat-shaped sleeping pods on wheels made of plyboard and fibreglass, first revealed by the *Bulletin* in June.

They were originally designed by qualified builder Peter Whiffin and caught the eye of Cr Crichlow when she

took a ride in one. The Surfers Paradise Sunset Rotary Club then offered to manufacture the pods as a project and with a few tweaks in the design, the first prototype was completed with funding from a Federal Government grant.

Club president Mario Fairlie said the first Sleeping Sanctuary cost \$1000 and took several months to construct but the cost and construction time could be brought down significantly.

He said the materials for the first 20 pods were covered by funding but all the labour was undertaken



by club volunteers from The Shed at Arundel.

"We took our time making the first one and made a few changes including being able to sit up in it which is important, and lots of ventilation for summer," he

said. "We could probably build 6 to 10 at a time over a couple of months. It is such a worthwhile cause as so many homeless people sleep in parks, and places like that and put themselves at such risk. These pods can be locked and secured and belongings can be kept inside so that people can feel safe going to sleep at night.

"There is a tremendous need for a solution like this, it is such a worthwhile cause."

Mr Fairlie said the club also had plans to design and manufacture a flat pack version which could be sent anywhere in the country.

Cr Crichlow has pushed to get the pods approved by council and said they were a safe solution to the city homeless crisis.

"The long-term goal is to secure a space like a carpark where these pods can be stored. I have a few places in mind, we just need to find the right place," she said.

The carpark adjacent to The Shed at Arundel could be suitable, she said.

More than 1700 people are homeless on the Coast, an increase of 14 per cent in the five years from 2011. It compares to 1205 in Logan and about 5800 in Brisbane.

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