

Homeless help earns award

KNOXFIELD couple Tony and Lisa Clark have won a human rights award for their work with the homeless.

They have helped homeless people since 2007, when Mr Clark founded non-profit charity Swags for Homeless. They designed a type of swag, known as a 'backpack bed', which is provided to charities to distribute to people turned away from shelters.

Last year about 3000 backpack beds were given to 139 charities, but Mr Clark said that fell well short of the 21,000 beds required to help the homeless.

The bed has won many awards and from April this year will be available in 90 retail stores will all proceeds going to support the work of Swags for Homeless.

Salvation Army Major Paul Moulds said the beds had been "invaluable" to the organisation and were used in many of its outreach programs.

Mr and Mrs Clark were winners of the community organisation award as part of the Australian Human Rights Commission's human rights awards. The awards were announced in Sydney on December 9.

Mr Clark said it was "extremely gratifying" to receive the award, but more government funding was needed to support the work they did.



Tony Clark