



Don Cameron is giving free swags to homeless people.

Picture: VALERIUCAMPAN N32OS209

Warmth for homeless

THE cold streets of Dandenong may be a little warmer, thanks to a program helping the homeless.

Cornerstone Contact Centre co-ordinator Don Cameron has been handing out swags as part of the *Swags For the Homeless* program.

The kit, which includes mosquito nets and a small mattress, is waterproof and stays warm in winter and cool in summer.

It also comes with a padlock and weighs about 1.5kg.

Mr Cameron said people would ask for accommodation and, after exhausting all other options, he would offer them a swag.

"If they're genuine, you'd figure it out pretty quickly," Mr Cameron said. "If

you've tried everything else, it'll keep you warm, if nothing else."

For some people who were living in rooming houses and had had their lives threatened, living in a swag was much more appealing.

"Some of our guys living in boarding homes, it can get a bit testy," Mr Cameron said. "They can have people threaten to kill them. But if they know there's a swag, they'll grab it and be out of that position."

He said swags were a much better alternative to sleeping bags and other options.

"People just love them," he said.

"Swags aren't a great long-term solution but they are so much better than nothing."

Details: swags.org.au.