

## VIEWPOINT: Swags for Homeless

*Tony Clark, Founder & Chairman, Swags for Homeless Ltd.*

Federal families, housing and communities minister Jenny Macklin and minister for social housing and homelessness Senator Mark Arbib are currently reviewing the Swags for Homeless \$2.1 million National Emergency Relief Homeless Program.



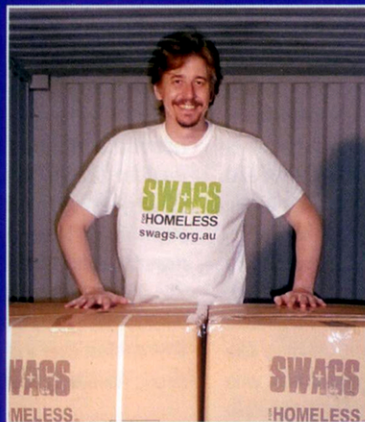
The NERHP aims to give all homeless turned away from overflowing shelters across Australia an outdoor Emergency Relief Backpack Bed. This Bed is a 2.48kg all weather and mosquito protected fire retardant

backpack that converts into an outdoor bed with a built-in fire-retardant insulated mattress. The guiding principle of the program is 'humanity not politics.'

The Bed has won the world's largest and most prestigious product design award for 2011, Germany's Red Dot 'Best of the Best'. It is the first time since 1955 that an Australian has won a 'Best of the Best' - and the first time a charity has won globally.

Despite the NERHP having strong federal multi-party support, along with peak homeless bodies and 100+ charities across Australia who all believe the NERHP is an immediate must, in February Senator Arbib stated he has no discretionary funding and instead has requested that Swags for Homeless take the long approach and contact each state and territory directly to implement the NERHP.

The NERHP is an initiative of national charity Swags for Homeless ([www.swags.org.au](http://www.swags.org.au)).



*Tony Clark founded the national charity Swags for Homeless to assist Australia's street sleeping homeless with the internationally acclaimed, life saving Backpack Bed™ which provides dignified emergency relief to homeless turned away from shelters. 3,000 have been distributed in the last 12 months via 100+ charities without any government funding.*