



United Way Glenelg

Tuesday 15 September 2020

MEDIA RELEASE

FACE MASKS MADE AVAILABLE FOR VULNERABLE COMMUNITY MEMBERS

United Way Glenelg has distributed 4,000 single-use face masks to local health services and not for profits in the Glenelg Shire.

Masks have been made available free to vulnerable residents who are at the greatest risk of infection.

Portland District Health Nurse Unit Manager of Palliative Care JoAnna Spurge, who has taken delivery of 1,000 masks said they would be valuable, particularly for palliative care patients and District Nursing Service patients, their carers and families.

"It is reassuring that our patients and their immediate caregivers are not compromising their protection and have the luxury of replacing their single-use facemasks regularly."

Face masks are still mandated in Victoria and it is anticipated we will be wearing them through to at least the end of the year.

If worn correctly and provided hands have been sanitised before placing on the face they can provide an additional barrier to lower the risk of transmission.

United Way Glenelg Executive Officer Nicole Carr delivered the masks across the shire last week and they have been well-received.

"While the shortage of facemasks has eased in Victoria they are still relatively expensive to buy. Access to free masks can ease the financial burden for vulnerable people."

Masks have been made available to the following health services; Winda Mara, DWECH, Portland District Health, Heywood Rural Health, Dartmoor Bush Nursing, Salvation Army, Casterton Memorial Hospital, St Vincent de Paul And Kyeema Support Services.

Some single-use facemasks have also been made available for free to community members who may require them. According to a Facebook post, they are available by contacting United Way Glenelg on 0410 513 305.

This project is supported by the United Way Glenelg COVID-19 Impact Fund with masks provided by B-Colors and advice from Brewster Walsh and Associates Portland.

A donation to the United Way Glenelg COVID-19 Impact Fund means 100% of your funds stay locally and distributed to those who need it the most. <https://www.unitedwayglenelg.com.au/get-involved/give/>

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