



Project - Christmas In July

Go date: 01 July 2019

Starting 01 July - 31 August, Sewing for Charity Australia's main project will be sewing and knitting/ crocheting Christmas gifts.

Our focus at Christmas is on men and teen boys who are often hard to buy for, forgotten and marginalised during the festive season. We will however be working with other organisations and community groups who are grateful for gifts for ALL people, so we encourage you to also create for women and children.

The organisations we are supporting are not listed for this project as we determine need closer to Christmas, however we will let you all know who we are helping closer to the time. We can tell you that we will be working with Gold Coast Christmas Lunch and Life's Little Treasures Foundation as a start.

What exactly are we sewing and knitting/ crocheting?

Below are some suggestions - this is a guide only and includes items that have been popular in previous years or requested for this year.

[Reading Cushion](#) or [Pocket Pillow](#)

- Men/ Women/ Teen/ Child
- (Optional) Include an appropriate book/ magazine/ colouring book/ journal!

Premmie Christmas Blankets

- Top
 - o Christmas themed fabric/ applique/ patchwork/ embroidery
 - o Cotton/ cotton blend

- Bottom
 - o White or cream flannelette
- 70-755 cm x 50-55 cm finished size
- Please topstitch

[Zippered pouches](#)

[Library Bag](#)

- Can be unlined if fabric is sturdy (eg drill/ soft furnishing)
- Bright kids themes
 - o Can be patterned fabrics, plain bright fabric which has been appliqued/ embroidered – use your imagination!
- Please add a small strip/ square of Velcro or a snap closure at the top between the two handles (snapping can be done at the Sewing Lair if preferred)
- Include a favourite children's book if you would like to!

[Small/ Medium Fabric Basket](#)

- We fill these with themed gifts, so please feel free to fill or include items if you would like to
- Some ideas for themed baskets:
 - o Coffee Lovers
 - o Loves to Draw
 - o Craft Alive
 - o Chocolate Lovers
 - o DIY Cupcake Kit
 - o Games and snacks (travel games are perfect for this!)
 - o Summer Survival Kit
 - o Teen girl
 - o Teen boy
 - o [Theme by colour](#)
 - o Sports

[Bowl Cosy](#)

[Men's Wallet](#)

SCRAP BUSTERS:

[Jersey Bracelet](#)

[Christmas Decorations](#)

- <http://www.vanessachristenson.com/2011/12/v-and-co-how-to-fabric-ornament.html>

- <https://www.madeformermaids.com/product/freeornaments/>
- <https://www.madeformermaids.com/product/free-christmas-tree-garland/>

[Notebook cover](#)

[Sunglasses case](#)

- (Optional) include a cheap pair of sunnies with this to go to our hard to buy for teen boys and men!

[Scrunchies](#)

[Earbud Pouch](#)

- (Optional) include a pair of earbuds with these for our hard to buy for teen boys and men!

KNIT/ CROCHET PATTERNS

[Crochet Bracelet](#)

[Crochet Christmas Ornament](#)

[Crochet Headband](#)

[Crochet Gingerbread Stocking](#)

[Santa's Elf Premmie Beanies](#)

What other items are we collecting?

- Items suitable for our themed gift baskets (see above)

How many?

- Unlimited - as many as we can make!

How else can I help?

Unable to sew for this project but still want to contribute? Here are a few other ways you can help:

A. Are you local to The Lair?

- We need many hands to sort and pack the made items throughout the project. Come to a regular Friday Community Collaboration Day, or, let us know when you're free to help.

B. Do you have a good eye for a bargain (or, just enjoy shopping!)?

- We need packaging supplies - clear self sealing cello bags Size A4 and A5 (ish)
- See our themed gift basket idea list for types of items we are hoping our bargain hunters will help us with! Important dates
- We are in desperate need of Christmas fabrics and white/ cream flannelette for the premmie blankets

Items need to arrive at the lair no later than **September 2019**. This will allow them to be sorted, packaged and sent out to our charity partners by late November 2019.

Where do I send things?

Send any finished items or donated materials to "The Sewing Lair":

38 Bladensburg Dr

Waterford QLD 4133

FAQs

II. What items do we need the most?

- A. Premmie christmas blankets, premmie christmas beanies and gifts for men and teen boys

III. Do I need to pre-wash my fabric?

- A. Yes please! Fabric should be pre-washed hot OR washed cold and dried in a clothes dryer on hot. This serves several purposes - removal of residual dye that may run / bleed; removal of factory chemicals / residues from the fabric manufacturing process; shrinking of fabric (if it is inclined to do so). This process needs to occur BEFORE cutting.

IV. I need fabric for this project. Can this be sent to me?

- A. Yes! We can usually send you fabric from donations at the lair. If possible, please consider covering postage. Contact Admin to arrange.

V. What courier service should I use to send in items?

- A. Use whichever courier or postal service you would like. As a guide, our volunteers have found the below services to be of good value:
 - For a small number of items (up to 5kg) - Australia post satchel
 - For larger, heavier items (>5kg) - Sendle courier service

VI. I made a mistake! Should I bother finishing / sending the item in?

- A. Yes! Many charity groups use items of all sizes throughout the year. Even if the specific charities this month are unable to use it, be assured every item can find a grateful home.

VII. I need some hands on guidance - can someone show me how to make one?

- A. Probably! Have a chat and we may be able to find another sewing volunteer locally you can collaborate with. Youtube also has some great tutorials - and we love questions, so don't hesitate to ask!

Still have questions?

Talk to us! We'd love to say hi :)

- Email: volunteer@sewingforcharity.com
- Post on our Facebook page or send a private message (PM).
- Call Cass on 0498 213 410