

BQI QUILTS OF LOVE

Guidelines, February 2018

The Ballarat Base Hospital (BBH) and the Maternity Unit of St John of God Hospital Ballarat (SJOG) are provided with 'Quilts of Love' made by members and friends of Ballarat Quilters Inc.

The quilts are offered to the parents of babies that are stillborn or have died for some reason. Quilts are also offered to the parents of living babies that are premature, unwell or in some sort of need. Late 2014 - early 2015 we committed to supplying the Emergency Department at Ballarat Base Hospital with quilts. Mostly these are for older people who are brought into that department and who are dying, and we hope the quilts will provide some comfort, colour and lessen the clinical white environment for all involved on these occasions. Some quilts are kept for children.

SIZES: BBH

Maternity Unit QoL:

- ~ 20 inches (no smaller) – ~ 26 inches (or any measurement in between) square or rectangular.
- The wadding used should be thin, pellon is ideal but any wadding is ok, so use up those scraps.
- Blocks can be very simple, any practice blocks you have around would be ideal.
- Because parents choose the quilts themselves, (and we all have different tastes), any colour is suitable.
- Quilting can be minimal, or even none at all – it's up to you.
- Label using one of BQI's labels or make your own.
- Quilts – 'boy', 'girl' or gender neutral are all welcome. (There is a higher incidence of male deaths.)

Special Care Unit (SCU) QoL:

Premature babies and babies in difficulty are cared for in the SCU in special Isolette cots and have different QoL requirements. (The quilts are washed and reused):

- ~ 40 inches square, +/- thin batting such as light pellon, but can be just 2 layers with, preferably, a plain DARK (eg black, navy) underside (eg flannelette). This is so the quilt will drape over the Isolette cots and *most importantly* block light stimuli from the prem babies eyes (they don't need it).
- Quilt front has no restrictions as to pattern or colours.
- Label using one of BQI's labels or make your own.

ED QoL:

- ~40 – 45 inches (or any measurement in between) square or rectangular.
- Can be 2 layers with flannelette backing or use batting if desired.
- Needs to drape well.
- Quilt front has no restrictions as to pattern or colours.
- Utilise UFO quilt projects that you deem suitable, finish and donate.
- Label using one of BQI's labels or make your own.

SIZES: SJOG

Maternity Unit QoL:

- As for BBH – see above

Special Care Unit (SCU) QoL:

The quilts are reused if care is short term but given to long term mothers and babies.

- 36 inches (no smaller) - 40 inches square, +/- thin batting such as light pellon, but can be just 2 layers with, preferably, a darker underside – basically as for BBH.
- Quilt front has no restrictions as to pattern or colours.
- Label using one of BQI's labels or make your own.

The staff in all the hospitals stressed how valued the gift of a Quilt of Love is and how much they appreciated being able to offer the choice of a quilt to parents and family. The recipients also very much appreciate these quilts.

If we could aim for ~ 15+ ED QoL and ~ 40 + of the Maternity, & SCU QoL combined, a year – it would be greatly appreciated.

Any queries please contact:

Wendy Coutts

BQI QoL Coordinator,

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QUILT LABELS

In 2009, former member Emma Jansen designed our current label for the quilts we make and donate such as Quilts of Love etc and kindly put it in 'pdf format' to share with BQI members.

BQI will buy sheets of Inkjet Printable Fabrics and utilising Emma's QoL Label pdf can print fabric labels for members and friends of BQI. There are 8 labels to an A4 sheet.

Please ask QoL co-ordinator for one or more as needed.

Also consider the following - those of us with computers can store and print up the labels ourselves helping defray costs. Please share a label or two with those who don't have access to computers and printers. Those who haven't access, please speak to members of the group to find who can help you out.

You might like to try member Glenys Irvine's method:

- 'I iron a piece of fabric onto a piece of freezer paper. This helps the fabric feed through the printer. Trim it to the same size as a4 computer paper. This seems to work better in the printer. I then just photo copy the label. Some fabrics seem to take the ink better than others. White Emma Louise seems to be fairly good.'

(Thanks Glenys for sharing)