

18 September 2020

Waitematā DHB volunteer group sewing up a storm

One of North Shore Hospital's longest-serving volunteer groups is using their sewing skills to make facemasks.

North Shore Hospital Auxiliary is one of Waitematā DHB's wonderful volunteer groups that started over 45 years ago.

The Auxiliary provide knitted blankets, polar fleece capes, baby blankets, baby gear, toiletries and other items to patients at North Shore and Waitakare Hospitals.

Now, the talented volunteers have turned their hand to making cloth facemasks.

It is a great way to use the beautiful fabrics they have accumulated over the years, as well as do a spot of fundraising for the group. They are being sold for \$5 each, as a "service to the community". This was made possible by volunteer time and using donated fabrics, with only elastic to pay for.

Auxiliary president Linda Smalley says the group started making facemasks in August and are selling them via social media. Their biggest order to date is 400 masks which will be donated to the Waitemata DHB's Specialist Mental Health & Addiction Services.

Smalley, who has been involved with the auxiliary for seven years, says she thinks members of the public are getting used to wearing facemasks every day and expects to be making them for a while.

ENDS