



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**For immediate use**

**Wednesday, 18 March 2020**

### **Orange Sky continuing to provide community support during challenging times**

As the COVID-19 outbreak continues to affect families, communities and countries around the world, Orange Sky has been monitoring how best to support the health, safety and wellbeing of our friends, volunteers, supporters, service providers and staff.

Orange Sky has a strong and embedded health and safety culture, and is currently implementing a measured approach to support as many shifts to stay in operation as possible.

Orange Sky's COO Mike Duggan said the organisation was doing everything it could to avoid risks that could negatively affect its community.

"It's inevitable that our services will be impacted by the COVID-19 outbreak, but our main focus as always is to continue supporting our friends while keeping our community safe," he said.

"We have a duty of care to not only friends (people experiencing homelessness), volunteers and service providers who are out on shift, but also to our wider community of staff, families and supporters. We are constantly reviewing and following advice from the World Health Organisation and Australian Government, and are in regular contact with the volunteer leaders of each service to ensure teams are supported and informed.

"This is a challenging and unprecedented time for everyone, and we want the community to be reassured that we are doing all we can to continue supporting our friends while ensuring the safety of our people.

"One thing that we continue to remind ourselves of at Orange Sky is the importance of staying connected during this time - whether that's on shift or online through our social channels, we would encourage everyone to continue supporting each other through genuine and non-judgemental conversation."

Orange Sky's leadership team has made the decision to close Orange Sky HQ in Brisbane for two weeks, requesting staff to work from home until Monday, 30 March.

"Except for our office being empty, it is business as usual for Orange Sky as we continue to work towards helping our friends through the delivery of our services across as many shifts as possible. We have made this decision so that we can equip our whole team to be in the best possible position to keep our services operating for as long as it is deemed possible. A special shout out to everyone during this time as we all work together to keep everyone safe and ensure people are supported."

**-Ends-**



**For media information please contact Megan Groundwater at Orange Sky: [megan@orangesky.org.au](mailto:megan@orangesky.org.au)**

**Website Statement on COVID-19:**  
[orangesky.org.au/covid-19](https://orangesky.org.au/covid-19)

**About Orange Sky:**

Orange Sky is a non-profit organisation providing free mobile laundry and shower services to people doing it tough. Established in 2014 by two best mates, Nic Marchesi and Lucas Patchett, Orange Sky began as an idea to help some of the 116,000 people experiencing homelessness across Australia. Nic and Lucas won Young Australian of the Year for their efforts to support the community in 2016.

Fast forward five years and Orange Sky now has 32 vans operating across every state and territory in Australia, providing 10,000kg of laundry and 1,500 hours of conversation a week to people in need.

To date Orange Sky has:

- Completed more than 1.4 million kilograms of washing;
- Provided more than 14,500 warm showers; and
- Facilitated over 222,500 hours of genuine and non-judgemental conversation on our six orange chairs.

**For more information please see Orange Sky on:**

- Website - [www.orangesky.org.au](http://www.orangesky.org.au)
- Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/OrangeSkyAU>
- Twitter - <https://twitter.com/OrangeSkyAU>
- Instagram - <https://www.instagram.com/orangeskyau>