



MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate use

Thursday, 19 March 2020

ORANGE SKY CALLS FOR CONNECTION AND INNOVATION DURING TIMES OF UNCERTAINTY

Orange Sky has been working around the clock to understand how they can continue to connect and support the most vulnerable in our community during the challenges faced from COVID-19.

Now more than ever, people experiencing homelessness are at a higher risk due to uncertain living conditions, and limited access to services and basic hygiene we all take for granted.

Orange Sky Co-Founder Nic Marchesi said the organisation was committed to doing everything it could to support people affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Like all Australians, we are constantly reviewing and reassessing our response to the COVID-19 pandemic,” he said.

“Our mission at Orange Sky is to *positively connect communities* and we recognise that now, more than ever, the world needs connection and we are advocating for ‘physical distancing’ rather than ‘social distancing’.

“We are working on ways to support our community to stay connected, whilst maintaining a strong focus on health and safety. Where possible, Orange Sky is continuing to operate services to support those doing it tough.

“First and foremost, our priority is to keep our friends (people experiencing homelessness), volunteers, service providers and the wider community safe. Therefore, we are constantly reviewing advice from the World Health Organisation and Australian Government to ensure we are able to achieve an appropriate level of safety.”

Nic said it was positive to see the not-for-profit sector collaborating during these difficult times to find solutions to support the most vulnerable in the community, but that more needed to be done.

He reinforced the value and contribution of the charity sector to the national economy and the importance for innovative solutions so that charities could continue to respond to those in need.

“Collaboration and innovation have always been in Orange Sky’s DNA. In order for the sector as a whole to overcome this pandemic, we must come together and share best practice, innovate our service delivery and gain additional support from the Australian Government to serve those in need.

“We are sharing processes, systems and communication with the sector as we recognise there is no precedent to work from during this current pandemic. We are innovating daily to ensure we can support those in need of our services, and we’ve also signed the *Collective Charities Response* to the Australian Government, urging for the charity sector to be included in the next round of policy solutions to COVID-19.



“Orange Sky’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic is changing and evolving everyday. Our collective response as a community will depend on the level of social solidarity we feel, and the degree to which we’re willing to look out for each other. At the heart of what we do is provide those who are doing it tough with access to connection, community and services that support better hygiene,” Nic Marchesi said.

To understand more about Orange Sky’s response to COVID-19 please visit:
[orangesky.org.au/covid-19](https://www.orangesky.org.au/covid-19)

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Nic Marchesi, Orange Sky Co-Founder

Website Statement on COVID-19:

[orangesky.org.au/covid-19](https://www.orangesky.org.au/covid-19)

Collective Charities Response signed document to the Australian Government:

Signed document - <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/urgent-appeal-from-forgotten-sector-during-times-crisis-ronni-kahn-ao/?trackingId=J%2FUzoSFGiEBDBPhAD1ciaA%3D%3D>

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 conversation on our six orange chairs.

For more information please see Orange Sky on:

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