



OrangeSky
— Australia —

Nic Marchesi OAM Lucas Patchett OAM CO-FOUNDERS

SHORT BIO

In October 2014, two best mates had a crazy idea to put two washing machines and two dryers in the back of a van, to wash and dry clothes for free for people doing it tough. Nicholas Marchesi and Lucas Patchett were awarded the 2016 Young Australians of the Year and in 2020 the Order of Australia Medal to recognise their founding of Orange Sky – the world-first, free mobile laundry and shower service for people experiencing homelessness.

LONG BIO

On a mission to improve hygiene standards for the 116,000 people experiencing homelessness across Australia, Nicholas Marchesi and Lucas Patchett stumbled on something much bigger and more significant – the power of a conversation.

Orange Sky now operates 52 services across 32 locations in Australia and four services across three locations in New Zealand, with continued expansion across both countries. The focus is on creating a safe, welcoming, and supportive environment for people who are too often ignored or feel disconnected from the community.

Since 2014, Orange Sky has provided more than 238,000 loads of free laundry, over 25,000 warm, safe showers, and more than 370,000 hours of genuine and non-judgemental conversation.

Innovation is in the DNA of Orange Sky. Orange Sky continues to priorities finding ways to deliver on its mission through evolving its service offerings and projects. One way this has been done is when Orange Sky won the Google Impact Challenge Grant to take its purpose built technology and further build it to support the not-for-profit sector and improve the volunteer lifecycle. 'Volaby' supports dozens of small and large charities across the world to innovate, make data-driven decisions, and harness technology for good.

Orange Sky, under the leadership of Nic and Lucas, are committed to delivering on Orange Sky's 2025 vision to help more than 40,000 people.

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