

# Activity Pack

OrangeSky  
— Australia —



# ONE IDEA

Orange Sky is the world's first free mobile laundry service for people experiencing homelessness – an idea founded in the garage of two 20-year-old mates, Nic Marchesi and Lucas Patchett. In late 2014, the boys installed a couple of washing machines and dryers in the back of their old van and visited parks around Brisbane, Australia to wash and dry clothes for free. What started as an idea to improve hygiene standards and restore dignity to people doing it tough has evolved into something much bigger and more powerful.

We hope your students enjoy this Activity Pack to learn more about Orange Sky and the issue of homelessness.



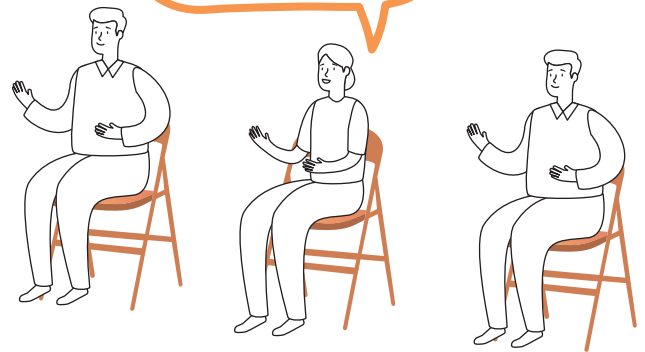
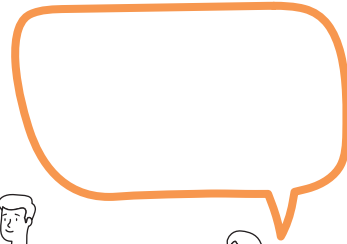
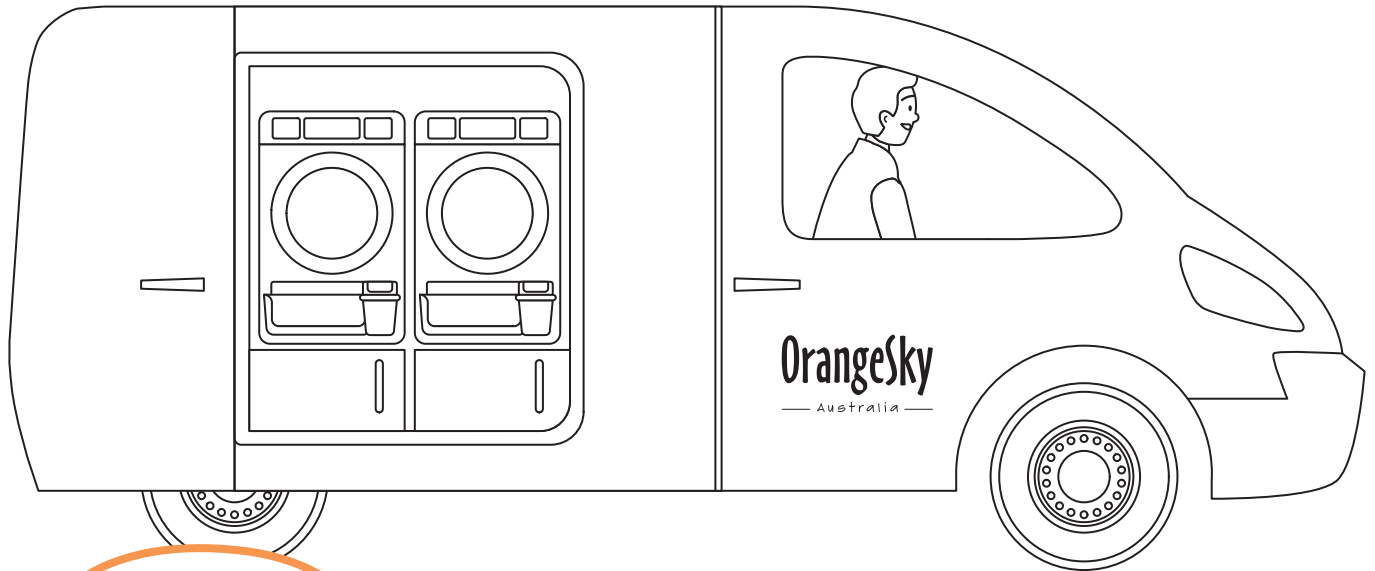
# Contents

Activity 1: Colour Me In .....	3
Activity 2: Make Your Own Sudsy Van .....	4–5
Activity 3: Orange Sky Washing Line .....	6–7
Activity 4: Conversation Starters .....	8–9
Activity 5: Orange Sky Quiz Time .....	10
Activity 6: Write a letter to a Friend .....	11–12
Additional Resources .....	13



# Colour Me In

## ACTIVITY ONE



**Add your favourite conversation starters to the speech bubbles!**

### Did you know?

Just like this picture, every Orange Sky shift has six orange chairs that we pull out to have genuine, non-judgemental conversations with our friends. While our friends wait for their washing, we love having a chat!

# Make Your Own Sudsy Van

## ACTIVITY TWO

Sudsy was our very first van and now you can make your very own! Young kids may need a little help with this one.

### Some fun Sudsy facts

- Each of our laundry vans have two washing machines and two dryers!
- There are now 33 vans just like Sudsy that operate in Australia and New Zealand providing tonnes of fresh clean loads of laundry every week!

### How to make it

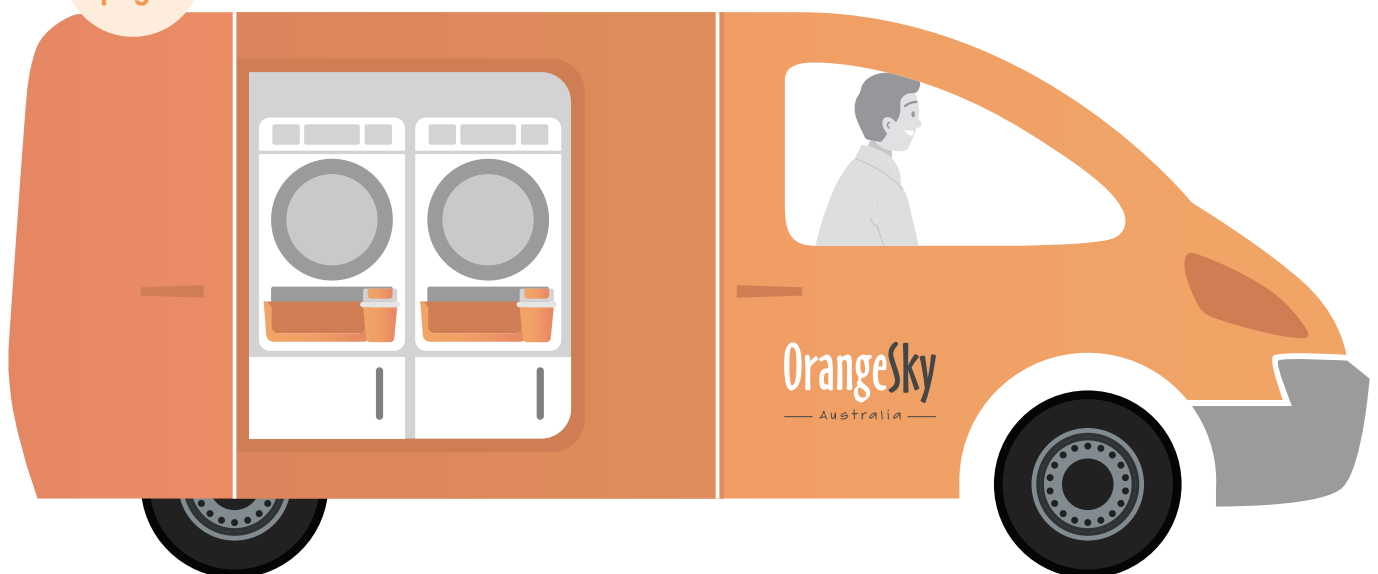
#### You'll need

- One A4 sheet of white paper
- Colouring in pencils or pens
- Safety scissors
- Glue suitable for paper

#### Steps

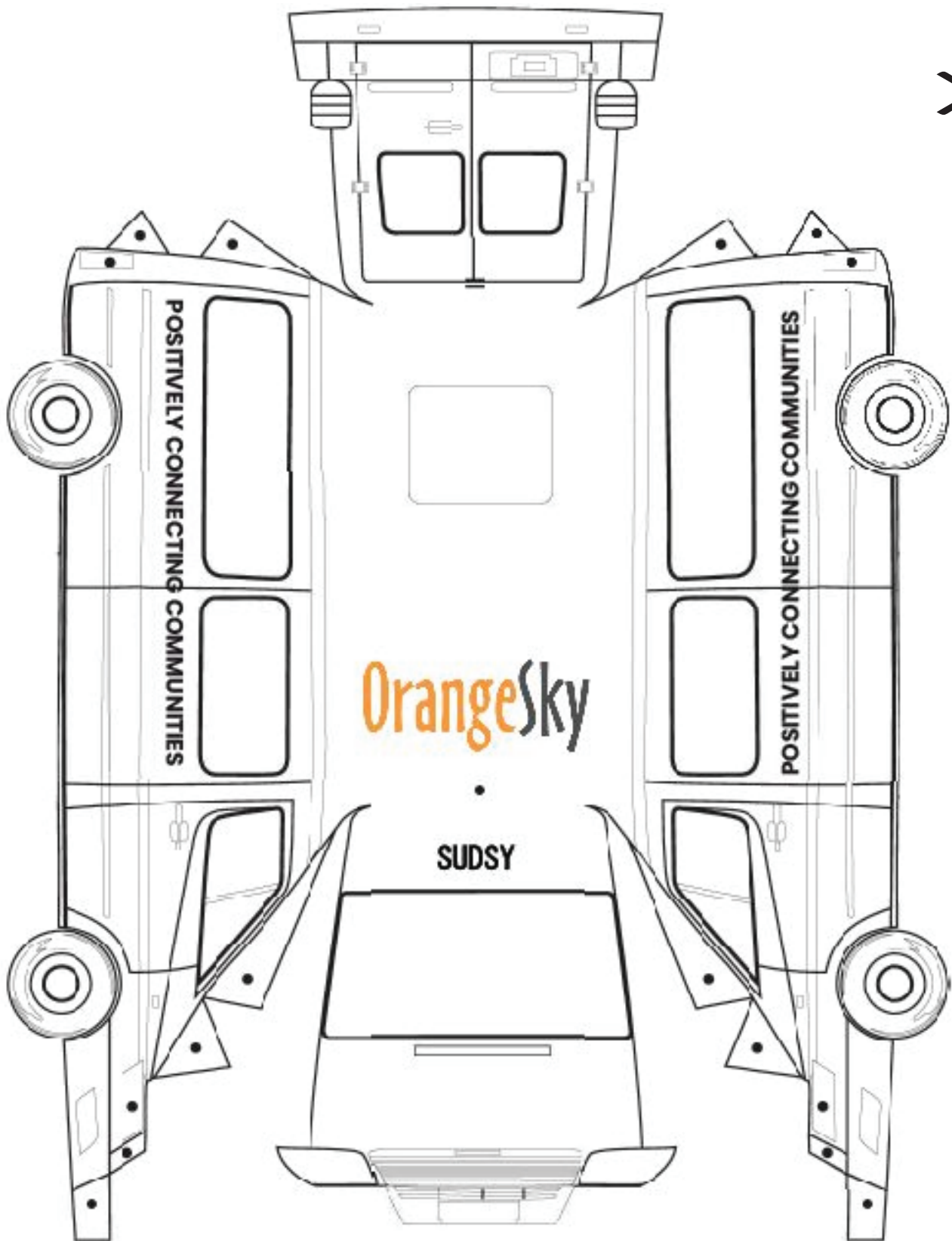
- 1 Print off the Sudsy van template on the next page on an A4 piece of paper.
- 2 Colour in your Sudsy van!
- 3 Using scissors, carefully cut along the solid lines on the outside of the van – make sure not to cut off the little triangle tabs (indicated by dots).
- 4 Fold down the four sides of the van creating its shape, and then fold along the connecting line of each of the triangular connector tabs.
- 5 Using glue, paste the folded triangular tabs to connect the four sides of the van!
- 6 Display your Sudsy van with pride and always share what Sudsy and the fleet of Orange Sky vans do.

See  
next  
page



# Make Your Own Sudsy Van

TEMPLATE



# Orange Sky Washing Line

## ACTIVITY THREE

Start conversations with an Orange Sky washing line. Cut out the shapes, colour them in and hang your washing line up to spark a conversation!

While Orange Sky provides a laundry and shower service, it's the connection and conversations that happen on our shifts that have the greatest impact. We hope your washing line can start some conversations!

### How to make it

#### You'll need

- One or more sheets of A4 paper
- Colouring in pencils or pens
- Safety scissors
- 1.5 metres of ribbon or string
- Sticky tape or pegs

#### Steps

- 1 Print the Orange Sky Washing Line template on the next page on a sheet of A4 paper.
- 2 Colour in the Orange Sky shapes from the template.
- 3 Carefully cut out each shape following the solid outlines on the template.
- 4 'Spacing your out shapes' evenly, carefully attach them to your piece of ribbon or string using sticky tape or pegs.
- 5 Hang your amazing new Orange Sky washing line!

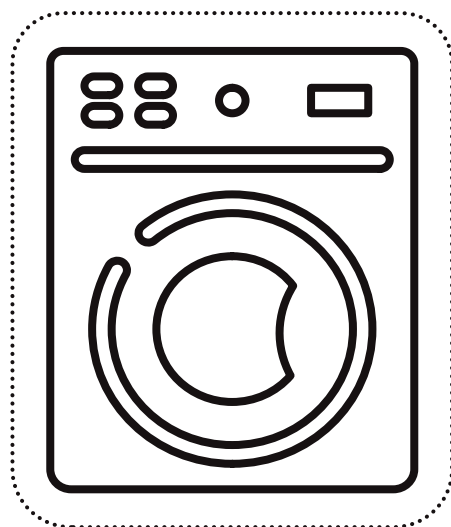
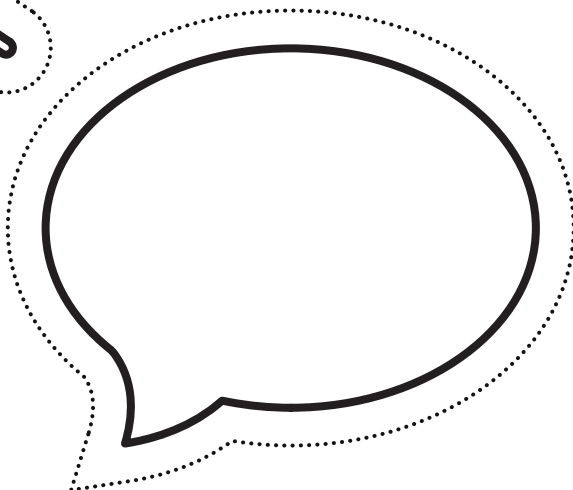
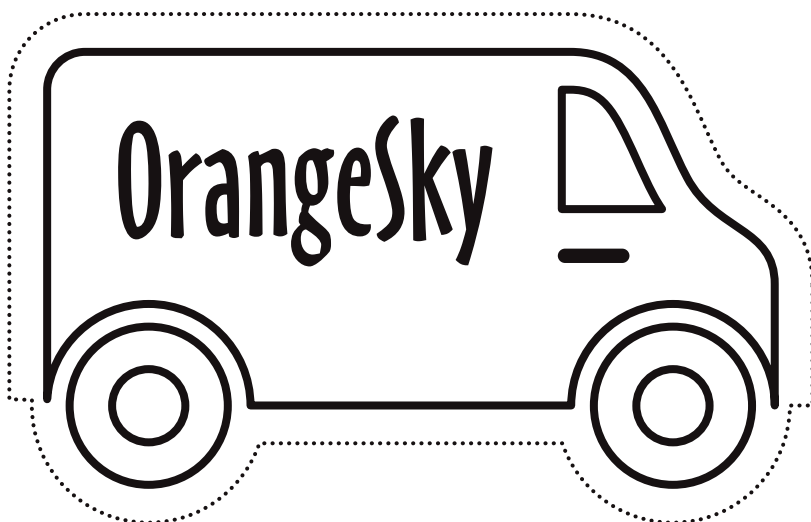
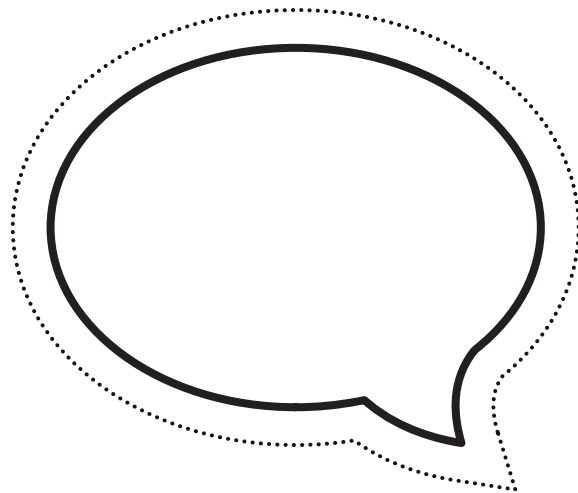
#### For extra fun or big groups

Photocopy the template page to make lots of individual washing lines, or an extra long line!

See  
next  
page

# Orange Sky Washing Line

TEMPLATE



Cut around  
the dotted  
lines





# Conversation Starters

## ACTIVITY FOUR

Use our conversation starter cards at the bottom of the page to get the conversations flowing at home or in the classroom to start chatting about homelessness.

People who experience homelessness are often disconnected from their community and that's why Orange Sky's mission is to positively connect communities. Every week our volunteers have almost 1,500 hours of genuine, non-judgemental conversation with people from all walks of life doing it tough.

### Using our conversation starters

- 1 Print and cut the conversation starter cards.
- 2 Discuss the rules; be kind to each other, it's okay to 'pass' if you're not sure!
- 3 Take turns to draw a conversation card and read it aloud to the group.
- 4 Discuss the question on the card.
- 5 Adults should guide the conversation where needed.
- 6 Repeat until all cards have been used!

### Classroom Tip

Place cards on six random students' chairs. Ask the six students to come to the front of the classroom to read out the questions for a class discussion.





**WHAT ARE SOME COMMON STEREOTYPES ABOUT HOMELESSNESS?**



**WHAT CAN WE DO TO SUPPORT MORE CHILDREN WHO EXPERIENCE HOMELESSNESS?**



**HOW DOES IT FEEL TO SEE SOMEONE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS?**



**WHY IS CONVERSATION IMPORTANT FOR PEOPLE DOING IT TOUGH?**



**WHAT WOULD IT FEEL LIKE TO WEAR THE SAME CLOTHES EVERY DAY?**



**WHAT IS ORANGE SKY AND WHAT DO THEY DO?**



# Orange Sky Quiz Time



## How well do you know Orange Sky?

Research Orange Sky via our website: [www.orangesky.org](http://www.orangesky.org), then take the quiz and see how much you've learnt!



### True or False?

	TRUE	FALSE
1 Orange Sky was the first free mobile laundry service in the world.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
2 Sudsy was Orange Sky's first van.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3 Orange Sky originated in New Zealand.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4 Orange Sky's laundry vans each have four washers and four dryers.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
5 Orange Sky comes from the name of a song.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
6 There are Orange Sky vans in every capital city of Australia.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
7 It takes Orange Sky a year to build a van.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
8 Orange Sky has special vans with both showers and laundry in them.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
9 Friends can't wash their beddings or towels with Orange Sky.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
10 Orange Sky has a van in Christchurch, New Zealand.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

SCORE ...../10

Answers  
page 13

# Write a letter to a Friend

ACTIVITY  
SIX

There's no doubt clean clothes make us all feel better about ourselves, but Orange Sky's impact doesn't just rely on washers or dryers. Through conversations taking place on our six orange chairs, our volunteers connect with our friends on the street through genuine and non-judgemental conversation.

We'd love your help to connect our communities. Why not write a letter of support to someone who might be experiencing homelessness?

## Things to think about

- For most people, homelessness is a temporary experience and not a definitive label.
- Not all people experiencing homelessness are sleeping on the street - it's actually a small percent. The majority of friends we help are living in shelters, boarding houses, temporary accommodation or severely crowded homes.



If you'd like your letter to make it to someone doing it tough, we'd love to pass it on. Mail your letter to Orange Sky at: PO Box 274, Hamilton Central QLD 4007 and address to 'Friend Letters'. We'll pass these onto our wonderful partner, The Good Box, who provide boxes of essential personal items including handwritten notes for those doing it tough.









# Additional Resources

## Share Your Creations

We'd love to see your amazing Sudsy vans, washing lines and other beautiful creations. Follow Orange Sky and don't forget to tag us in your posts!

## Australia

-  **Website** [orangesky.org.au](https://www.orangesky.org.au)
-  **Youtube** [youtube.com/c/OrangeSkyAU](https://www.youtube.com/c/OrangeSkyAU)
-  **Instagram** @orangeskyau
-  **Facebook** @orangeskyau

## Get Involved

Want to help Orange Sky support people experiencing homelessness? We'd love to hear from you.

## How to Fundraise

Contact our team at [hello@orangesky.org](mailto:hello@orangesky.org) to chat about how you can fundraise for Orange Sky at home, at school, or in your community.



### Take on The Sudsy Challenge

Take on The Sudsy Challenge in September! Challenge yourself to wear the same clothes for three days, talk about the issue of homelessness and raise funds for Orange Sky.

Find out more at [www.thesudsychallenge.com](http://www.thesudsychallenge.com)

## Answers from Orange Sky Quiz Time page 10 (no peaking!)

- 1 True - we're innovative like that!
- 2 True - our founders, Nic and Lucas, built Sudsy in their garage!
- 3 False - Orange Sky started in Brisbane, Australia in 2014 then moved to New Zealand in 2018.
- 4 False - Orange Sky's laundry vans have two washers and two dryers.
- 5 True - the song is by Alexi Murdoch and inspired Nic and Lucas as it talks about 'loving your brothers and sisters'.
- 6 True - we're now in 31 locations in Australia including every capital city.
- 7 False - it only takes us around 2 to 5 weeks to build our vans.
- 8 True - our hybrid vans are awesome as they have both washing and shower facilities.
- 9 False - friends can certainly wash bedding and towels at our shifts.
- 10 False - we don't yet have a van in Christchurch but hopefully soon!

# OrangeSky

— Australia —

If you'd like to find out more about Orange Sky, visit our website to learn about what we do, why we do it, and stories from our friends.

[www.orangesky.org.au](http://www.orangesky.org.au)

