

A group of people, mostly women, are gathered in front of a building. Many are wearing orange t-shirts with the word "Orangesky" printed on them. Some are holding up orange plastic chairs. The building behind them has a large mural of a person's head and shoulders. The scene is outdoors, and the overall tone is celebratory and energetic.

Orangesky
— Australia —

About Us

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Where it Started

Orange Sky Australia is the world's first free mobile laundry service for people experiencing homelessness, an idea founded in a Brisbane garage by two 20-year-old mates, Nic Marchesi and Lucas Patchett. In late 2014, the boys built the first laundry van, Sudsy, installing a couple of washing machines and dryers in the back of their old van.

Nic, Lucas, and Sudsy visited parks around Brisbane to wash and dry clothes for free and met a friend named Jordan. Jordan was the first person to use this free mobile laundry service. Once Jordan's first load of washing was on, not knowing what to do next, Nic and Lucas started chatting with Jordan while they waited. Lucas found Jordan had studied engineering at the same university as himself. The only difference was that Jordan had hit some tough times.

Since then, Orange Sky has helped people just like Jordan all over Australia - by washing and drying their clothes, but more importantly by having genuine and non-judgmental conversations.

What We Do

Orange Sky is a non-profit organisation providing free mobile laundry and shower services to people experiencing homelessness.

Each week, thousands of volunteers give their time to help positively connect some of the 116,000 Australians doing it tough – and we're so grateful you want to help!

Orange Sky's focus is creating a safe, positive and supportive environment for people who are too often ignored or feel disconnected from the community.

With your support, we can continue to help our friends doing it tough by providing the opportunity for genuine conversation and connection on our six orange chairs.





— Australia —

So, what is homelessness?

There are 116,000 Australians who are experiencing homelessness – but did you know that only five percent of people doing it tough are sleeping on the streets? The 2016 Census tells us that most people experiencing homelessness in Australia are living in cars, tents, severely overcrowded homes, refuges or couch surfing.

At Orange Sky, we spend many hours having conversations with our friends while they are getting their laundry done. A lot of friends tell us homelessness is not just about their living situation, but also the absence of human connection and a sense of belonging.





— Australia —

How do people find themselves doing it tough?

Every day, we sit on our **six orange chairs** and have **conversations with friends**. We have a unique opportunity to hear stories about real experiences of homelessness. What we've learnt is there isn't just one pathway to homelessness - everyone's journey is different and there are a bunch of reasons why people find themselves doing it tough; domestic or family violence, childhood abuse, the breakdown of a relationship, the loss of a loved one, a natural disaster, a workplace injury, unemployment or the collapse of a business.

More often than not, it is two or more of these things occurring in close proximity that makes someone vulnerable to experiencing homelessness. What we've come to understand is that it's less about what happens to a person and more about what their support network looks like in their moment of vulnerability.

At Orange Sky, we don't **pretend to have all the answers - but what we can provide is a safe, reliable and non-judgemental space** for people to feel **connected**.



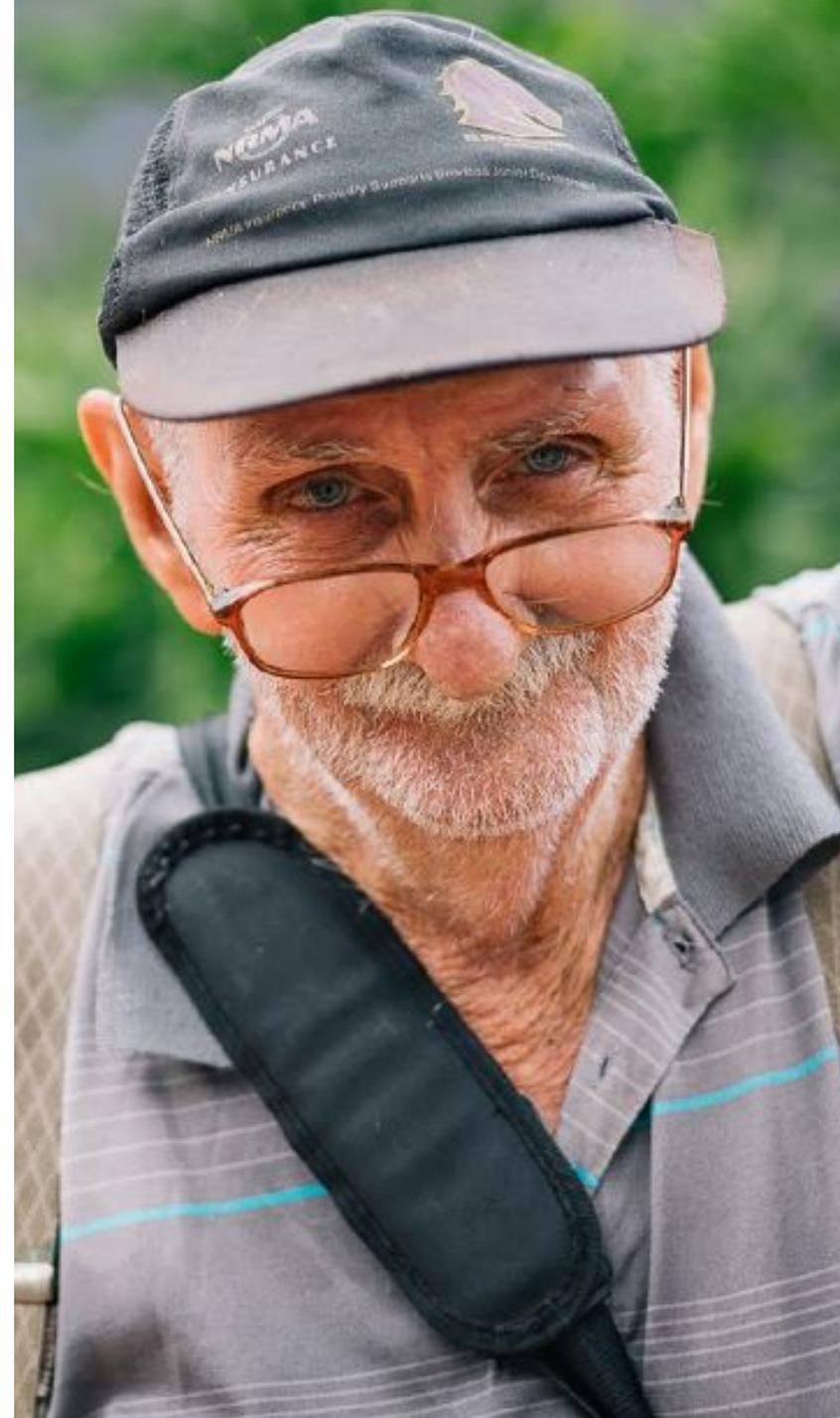
Why are conversations important?

People who experience homelessness are often disconnected from the community and without a close network of people to support them. Orange Sky provides a free mobile laundry and shower service - but our greatest impact is in the hours of conversation that take place between volunteers and friends like Harry.

When we first met Harry, he didn't have a home - but we were able to provide him with access to clean clothes and conversation. He doesn't need to use our laundry service anymore, but he told us it's the regular conversation with Orange Sky volunteers that helps him feel connected and part of a community.

"My name's Harry O'Callaghan and I'm 75 years of age. I was taken off my mother when I was about one year old. I grew up in homes and orphanages, but I weren't the brightest kid and I weren't the smartest kid.

Orange Sky, they help people. Every time I come down here, I feel good. When I have a bad day and Orange Sky's here, I forget about my bad day and they look after you."





How We Talk

At Orange Sky, conversations are what we do best and this is reflected in the way we talk. We always aim to be passionate, fun, and simple. We know the issue of homelessness is a serious one, but we like to focus on what we can practically do to help; provide friends with clean clothes, warm showers and non-judgmental conversation. We want everyone who interacts with Orange Sky to leave feeling hopeful, inspired, and connected.

Our mission is to positively connect communities

We provide laundry and shower services, but above all, we want to positively connect people through genuine and non-judgmental conversation.

Label Free

For most people, homelessness is a temporary experience and not a definitive label. We prefer to say 'people experiencing homelessness' or 'people doing it tough' instead of 'homeless people'.

We don't like the 'C' word but we love the 'F' word

We steer clear of words like client, customer and consumer. The people who use our services are friends or friends on the street.

Not everyone is 'sleeping rough'

Not all people who are experiencing homelessness are sleeping on the street – in fact, it's at about five percent. The majority of friends we help are living in shelters, boarding houses, temporary accommodation or overcrowded homes.

Orange Sky

Many of our supporters know us as Orange Sky Laundry, and rightfully so, as it used to be our name. Laundry is just a small part of what we do today, so we've dropped the 'laundry' and are now just Orange Sky.

Talking Points

We love a good chat – that's why we carry six orange chairs in every van so we can sit down for a yarn. We don't attempt to preach anything or discuss politics, and this is the same for our brand.

Focus on the positives

We don't pretend to have all the answers. We know that clean clothes and a shower won't end homelessness, but it's a start towards helping a person get back on their feet. We focus on how we're helping friends feel positively connected through genuine and non-judgmental conversation.

What can you do to help?

You've already taken the first step by deciding to raise funds for Orange Sky! Fundraising and donations help keep our vans on the road and support friends doing it tough through free laundry, warm showers, and genuine conversation.

Conversations are at the core of everything we do - and through your fundraiser, we hope you'll raise awareness about the importance of human connection. We've got some tried and tested conversation starters for you to help kick off your chats!

“Have you heard of Orange Sky?”

“1 in 200 people are experiencing homelessness in Australia”

“Did you know that 1/4 of Australians feel lonely?”

“Do you know who Sussy is?”

In case you don't know, Sussy was the first van that Orange Sky ever built - and it still lives in our office foyer!



Your Impact



Orange Sky has 31 vans, two laundry pods, 1200 volunteers, and hundreds of friends who rely on us to be at the same place at the same time every week.

The money you raise supports our vans to stay on the road and makes sure our volunteers have everything they need to do the things they do best.





Are you up for the Challenge?

The Sudsy Challenge is a three-day event held over three weekends in September. Participants wear the same clothes for three days, take part in conversations around homelessness and raise funds to support people experiencing homelessness across Australia and New Zealand.

The Sudsy Challenge is one of the easiest ways to get raise funds and awareness for Orange Sky. You can register as an individual or make a team with friends, your workplace or school!

Find out more

www.thesudsychallenge.com



A group of people, including a man in a beekeeper suit, looking at something together. The image is dimmed and serves as a background for the text.

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