



Monday, 5 February 2018

Orange Sky Australia is launching Canberra's first hybrid van, which will provide free mobile laundry and shower services to people in need.

'Frosty' is the 23rd vehicle Orange Sky's national fleet and only the third hybrid van to be built. It will replace the current laundry van in Canberra, which has serviced the community since April 2016.

Orange Sky Co-founder Lucas Patchett said he was proud to be back in Canberra launching a new service.

"The development of our new hybrid vehicle is an important step in Orange Sky's mission to positively connect communities," he said.

"The hybrid idea came from a strong community need to bring our shower and laundry services together in one package."

While laundry and showers is what Orange Sky does best, Lucas said it was the conversations that would have the biggest impact.

"Our six orange chairs are the most important part of our service. It's where our friends who attend our shifts have the opportunity to build relationships with volunteers through genuine and non-judgmental conversations," he said.

The launch of Frosty has been made possible by The Snow Foundation, Icon Water and the Independent Property Group Foundation.

The Snow Foundation CEO, Georgina Byron said she couldn't wait to see the van in action on the streets of Canberra.

"We love Orange Sky and all that it offers our community. It's not just about clean clothes, it's the personal conversations that are had while waiting for the clothes to be washed," she said.

"This has been re-enforced by Trisha Wong, our Relationship Manager at The Snow Foundation, who volunteered for Orange Sky."

Orange Sky's mobile laundry service in Canberra has provided more than 2,200 washes and fostered over 5,300 hours of genuine and non-judgmental conversations. There are currently 11 shifts operating in Canberra across seven days of the week.

Icon Water Managing Director, John Knox said he was committed to supporting those in need across the community.

"We are proud to support Orange Sky in their purchase of a mobile laundry and shower van for Canberra. This vitally important service provides a hot shower, fresh clothes and a friendly conversation for more than 1700 people who are homeless across Canberra," he said.



Independent Property Group CEO, John Runko said the launch of a hybrid vehicle was a great example of the community banding together to help those who needed it most.

“The Independent Property Group Foundation was founded to support local charities and organisations that are making a real difference in Canberra and Orange Sky Laundry does exactly that,” he said.

“We know homelessness is a real issue in Canberra and we are very proud and excited to be involved with a group that works tirelessly to help those who are struggling.”

To donate or volunteer, please visit www.orangesky.org.au.

MEDIA OPPORTUNITY

- WHEN:** Monday, 5 February 2018
TIME: 9am – 10am
WHERE: Early Morning Centre, 69 Northbourne Avenue, Canberra
WHO: Orange Sky Co-Founder, Lucas Patchett
Head of Brand and Communications, Benjamin Knight
Manager of Service Operations (NSW & ACT), Maz Dargan
Volunteers and people who use the service
Representatives from The Snow Foundation, Icon Water and Independent Property Group Foundation.
- VISUALS:** The hybrid van will be in operation and available to film at the launch.

MEDIA CONTACTS:

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