

**MEDIA STATEMENT****For immediate use****Tuesday, 24 March 2020**

These are challenging times for us all as we come together to fight the spread of COVID-19.

It is with great disappointment that we share the Orange Sky Board, Senior Leadership Team and COVID-19 response team have made the difficult decision to pause shifts in their current form for up to the next four weeks. There is potential for this to be extended based on government advice.

We are proud and inspired by our team everyday and are committed to finding innovative ways to keep the most vulnerable people in our community connected over this time.

Our volunteers have been doing such an amazing job supporting our friends (people experiencing homelessness) during this difficult time, and this decision was not made lightly.

Now more than ever, we are reminded about the importance of keeping our community safe, as well as the care and compassion of the people around us. Our main responsibility at this time is to ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of our friends, volunteers, fellow service providers and the general public.

Any future decision about getting our shifts back up and running will be guided by the most up to date and reliable information from the New Zealand Government.

For anyone who has followed our journey over the past few years, you will know that something like this will not stop us from delivering our mission to positively connect communities. We continue to be incredibly grateful for the community's support, as we work hard to deliver our mission and support our friends doing it tough.

To find out more please connect on social media or via our website here:
www.orangesky.org.nz/covid-19

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For media information please contact Megan Groundwater at Orange Sky:
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Website Statement on COVID-19:
www.orangesky.org.nz/covid-19



About Orange Sky:

Orange Sky is a non-profit organisation providing a free mobile laundry and shower service for people experiencing homelessness. Our first New Zealand van was launched in Auckland in October 2018, followed by a second van in Wellington a year later in October 2019. Each week, more than 150 volunteers give their time to help positively connect some of the 41,000 New Zealanders doing it tough. The focus is on creating a safe, positive and supportive environment for people who are too often ignored or feel disconnected from the community. We want to make sure that everyone has access to free laundry and shower services - but most importantly - the opportunity to connect and feel welcome.

For more information please see Orange Sky on:

- Website – www.orangesky.org.nz
- Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/orangeskynz>
- Twitter – www.twitter.com/orangeskynz
- Instagram - <https://www.instagram.com/orangeskynz>