Media Release

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WOODSIDE SPONSORS ORANGE SKY HOMELESSNESS SUPPORT VAN IN PERTH

Orange Sky Australia and Woodside Energy have launched a new A$450,000 three-year partnership which will see Woodside extend its support of the homelessness service in Perth through sponsorship of the newly named ‘Karla’ mobile laundry and shower van.

Orange Sky provides a free mobile shower and laundry service for people across Australia who are experiencing homelessness, with a mission to positively connect communities.

Woodside CEO Peter Coleman said the company was proud to collaborate with Orange Sky.

“We named the Woodside-sponsored van ‘Karla’, the Noongar word meaning ‘camp fire’ because that is a place where people gather to connect with each other.

“Orange Sky provides a place where people in Perth who are experiencing homelessness can come together, wash their clothes and connect with the community and service providers. That helps to achieve what we at Woodside also aim to do, which is to build stronger communities.

“Volunteering is part of our culture at Woodside and Orange Sky provides another valuable opportunity for our people to get involved and give back to the community. We’re excited to be able to facilitate this through our partnership with this innovative outreach service,” he said.

Orange Sky Co-founders Nic Marchesi and Lucas Patchett were named 2016 Young Australians of the Year for their work in establishing the organisation. It has since expanded from one van with two washers and dryers in a park in Brisbane to now servicing 258 locations across the country.

Lucas said the partnership with Woodside was an opportunity to keep doing what Orange Sky does best: providing free laundry, safe hot showers and genuine conversations with our friends on the street.

“One of the basic privileges a lot of us take for granted is having clean clothes to put on each day - it may seem small, but for a person doing it tough, having access to laundry and shower services can make a huge difference in their life. But we see our biggest impact is through the hours of conversations which provide people the opportunity to connect,” he said.

Orange Sky’s Perth fleet currently consists of two service vans. The partnership with Woodside will support the WA operations and volunteers to keep one of the vans on the road for another three years. It will also facilitate the van’s use for Orange Sky’s Social Impact Washing Program, which provides people experiencing homelessness with employment opportunities.

Orange Sky Australia has provided over one million kilograms of clean clothes to date, and more importantly, is about to exceed 200,000 hours of genuine and non-judgmental conversation.

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