

NACRO

Fast facts about charitable recycling

- Charitable recycling is the oldest, largest and most coordinated recycling/reuse cohort in Australia – it is the “mother” recycling industry.



Charity recycling turns pre-loved, donated goods into good works

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- There are close to 2,500 charity operated op shops across Australia.



There are more than 2400 charity-operated op shops in Australia

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- More than 76,000* Australians volunteer their time to support charity op shops.



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- Gross national “over the counter” retail sales are greater than \$500,000,000.
- Donations of goods to charitable recyclers are made up of clothing, textiles and homewares. The latter can include the myriad of items found in our homes including kitchenware, furniture and indeed stuff from garages and sheds. Charitable recyclers benefit from up to 70% of donations.
- Charitable recyclers receive donations through four main streams; donation drop offs to Op Shops, donations by way of street corner donation bins, direct home collection and letterboxed dropped collection bags.
- Charitable recycling is a benevolent function, the purpose of which is to clothe those without and to raise money for charitable programs.
- Op Shops are a vital source of funding for the charities' community support programs. They help tens of thousands of people in crisis and in need in our communities each year through the money they raise.
- St Vincent de Paul Society has the most charity operated op shops in Australia – Salvos Stores have the largest retail footprint.
- Over 1 million tonnes of goods are donated annually to charitable recyclers by way of shop donations, donations bins, home pickups and corporate donations.* More than 780,000 tonnes are donated directly to charity stores.



In 12 months Australians donate more than 780,000 tonnes of clothing and goods to charity stores

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

- Close to 70% of donations are used by charities, sadly the remaining is often destined for landfill.*
- **Waste sent to landfill tends not to be clothing or textiles** – but inappropriate donations which are mainly homewares, including broken and soiled indoor and outdoor furniture, toys, bicycles, white goods and unusables such as gas bottles, bbqs and textbooks. Mattresses continue to be a burden for charities across the country.



250,000 tonnes

Charities are paying tip fees to dispose of 250,000 tonnes of dumped, damaged clothing and goods each year

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Mattresses continue to menace donation points with 79% of respondents to a NACRO survey advising that dumped mattresses are the greatest financial burden – NACRO Victoria member survey 2014.
- **Rest assured charities use more than 96% of donated clothing.**
- ABS data in 2016-17 showed Australian exports of "worn clothing and other worn textile articles" was 93,502,966 kilos. Direct exports from charities accounted for two thirds.
- It is estimated that there is in excess of 10,000 donation bins located throughout Australian metropolitan suburbs and regional towns. Less than 65% or 6,500 are charity operated with around 35% commercially operated or 3500 donation bins.
- Over 40 million transactions through charity operated op shops (one or more items per transaction) - equivalent to every Australian shopping and making a purchase at least twice a year at charity op shops.*
- Clothing and textiles account for 48% of Op Shop sales. Homewares, bric-a-brac and books are 46% of sales and furniture, 6% of sales.*