



**Q: When is National Op Shop Week 2019?**

**A:** Monday September 30 to Sunday October 6, this is its eighth year.

**Q: What is National Op Shop Week?**

**A:** Op Shop Week is an annual event that encourages you to do 3 things:

- donate to charity op shops
- shop at charity op shops
- volunteer at charity op shops.

If you can do any of those things, you'll be making a real difference!

**Q: Why should I support my local op shops?**

**A:** Money from op shop sales funds important frontline community services such as:

- Women and children's refuges
- Homelessness services
- Migrant and refugee assistance
- Food vans and food vouchers
- Drug and alcohol counselling
- Disaster relief
- and much more!

Many charities are highly reliant on the money they raise in their op shops. Without them, they would struggle to fund some of their key support services.

**Q: What are the benefits of volunteering in a charity op shop?**

**A:** Volunteers help to build a strong community. It's also a great antidote to social isolation for the elderly, those facing barriers to employment, and is an opportunity for recent migrants to meet people and improve their English. School-leavers and people returning to the work force can also learn new skills as volunteers.

## Q: Are charity op shops charging too much?

A: Definitely not. Firstly, some items donated to charity op shops are given away for free to people in need. Secondly, charity op shops are set up to raise money for disadvantaged Australians. So while they're trying to give you a bargain, they also have to fund their essential community services.

## Q: What are the environmental benefits of donating to and shopping at op shops?

A: According to the [UN Environment Programme](#), the clothing industry produces 20 per cent of global wastewater and 10 per cent of global carbon emissions – that's more than all international flights and maritime shipping. And all too often we buy clothing, wear it a few times, and then throw it away.

- [ABC's War on Waste](#) program reported last year that a whopping 6,000kg – six tonnes! – of fashion waste is generated every 10 minutes in Australia.
- According to [NACRO](#), charity op shops also help the environment by diverting over 588,000 tonnes of reusable clothes and goods out of landfill each year
- Buying clothing second-hand means that zero pollutants (dyes, bleach, etc) are released into the environment, and zero new resources are used. Did you know that, [according to the UN](#), it takes 7,500 litres of water to grow enough cotton for just one pair of jeans?

## Q: When is the best time to donate?

A: The best time to donate is when the shop is open so the volunteers can decide if they're able to accept your donation. If you can't make it during open hours, call the shop and arrange a time. **Never leave your donations on the footpath or dumped around charity bins.** If the items get wet or damaged then they cannot be sold. If you're using a drop bin make sure it's owned by a charity, since over 30% of these bins are now commercially operated.



**Q: What can't I donate?**

**A:** Charity op shops have to pay millions of dollars a year sending donated rubbish to landfill. That's millions of dollars a year *not* going into frontline services.

- According to the ABC, the Salvation Army alone spends \$6 million a year on landfill fees.

***Don't donate anything in a condition that you'd be embarrassed to give to a friend.***

Op shops don't have the time or money to wash or repair donations, so please give them in a state where they can go straight on the rack or shelf.

A lot of people aren't willing to put the effort into getting a garment washed, dry-cleaned, or repaired (sew a button back on, replace a zipper, etc) but it can make the difference between whether the item has to be thrown out or not.

Op shos can't receive gas bottles or barbecues, car parts, scratched or damaged saucepans, scratched or burned CDs and DVDs, and chipped or broken glassware.

Not all stores can receive furniture, which depends on floor space. Those that can sell furniture often offer a free furniture collection service, call them to check.

Some stores cannot accept anything that is governed by safety standards, including prams, cots and baby seats, and electrical and white goods.

**Every shop is different in what donations they are able to accept, so please call them.**

Please don't dump soiled mattresses at op shops, which cannot be resold and are the most expensive items to remove. Mattresses continue to menace donation points with 79% of respondents to a NACRO survey saying that dumped mattresses are the greatest financial burden. For items that op shops can't take, please check out [Recycling Near You](#), the [Television and Computer Recycling Scheme](#), or contact your local council's recycling officer.

**Charity op shops need your high quality donations to fund their important programs, so please keep donating!**



We have over 2,500 charity op shops from all across Australia listed on our site. Type your postcode on the homepage of [www.opshopweek.com.au](http://www.opshopweek.com.au) to find the one nearest you!