

## IMPACT STATEMENT

You are nervous. With good reason – today you have the first job interview you’ve been offered in over 2 years. Those last 2 years have been tough, no job, couch-surfing, often going hungry and always feeling dirty, always! That’s probably the worst thing – just never feeling clean. And you know others can tell, even though they rarely say anything.

But today is different, the shelter you are staying at got some *Essentials* delivered and you’ve got soap, a razor, toothpaste and a comb. You’ve gotta say, you scrub-up quite well. You feel good. You are ready for that interview!

This type of situation affects hundreds of people everyday and every case is unique but the underlying problem can be that individuals lack access to *Essentials* and *Basics* such as soap, sanitary products, shampoo, shavers and toothpaste.

Founded in 2014, The Essentials Collective runs campaigns to collect essentials via donations from the community. These essentials are distributed to our group of more than 30 Beneficial Partners which are organisations that provide front-line support to people in need such as homelessness services and domestic violence shelters.

Our two campaigns per year focus on *Essentials* including body wash & soap, shampoo & conditioner, deodorant, sanitary items, dental care, skin care and sun protection. Then, our *Basics* campaign focuses on underwear, beanies, gloves, blankets and personal care items.

Since inception, The Essentials Collective has collected over 245,000 items for distribution to people in need. These *Essentials* are life-changing, they help to improve dignity, build self-esteem, maintain hygiene and enable many of the recipients to get back on with their lives.

Our success comes from a dedicated Board, a passionate Executive Officer and an awesome team of volunteers. Of course, The Essentials Collective cannot do without the generous contribution of thousands of community members that contribute items and donations to help those in need.

