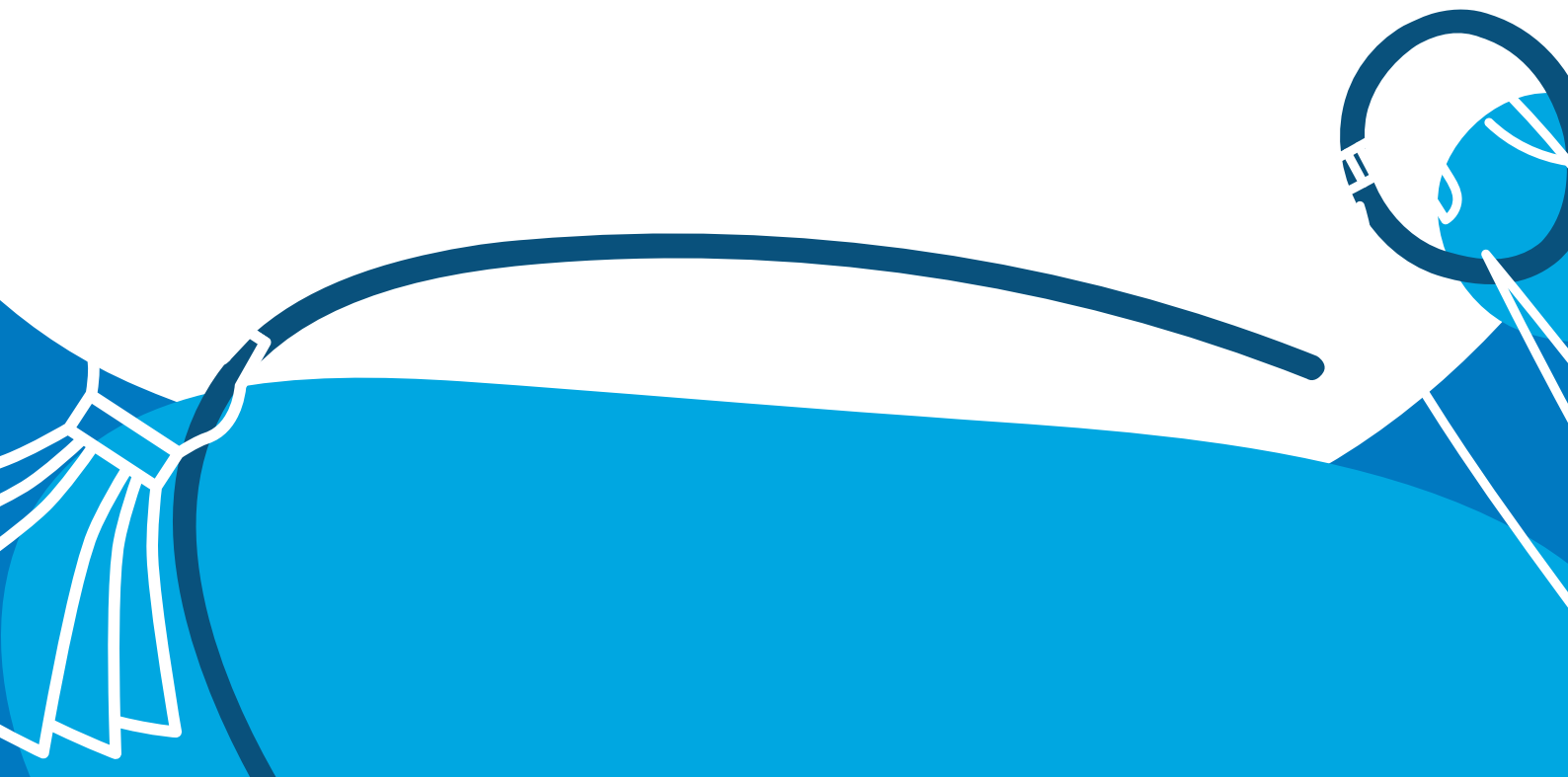




**NATIONAL
RECYCLING WEEK**

PLANET ARK

CLOTHING SWAP



CLOTHING SWAP

Organising a date

National Recycling Week, established by Planet Ark in 1996, is held every year during the second week of November.

During this time Planet Ark will be running a nationwide media campaign encouraging schools, councils and businesses to promote recycling through a variety of resources, events and activities.

Schools can participate at any time during the period of the Schools Recycle Right campaign, which runs from October to November each year. Your school may also choose to get involved with activities run by your local council.

Register your event

If your event is open to the community, register your event with us

[CLICK HERE](#)

Organise another event

Other ideas for events and activities can be found in our Event Guide

[CLICK HERE](#)

Show us how you Joined the Cycle

Let us know how you've celebrated NRW by connecting the resources you use with us!

Tag: @PlanetArk

Hashtags: #NationalRecyclingWeek #JointheCycle



CLOTHING FACTS

Every year, **over 300,000 tonnes** of clothing is either sent to landfill or exported from Australia.

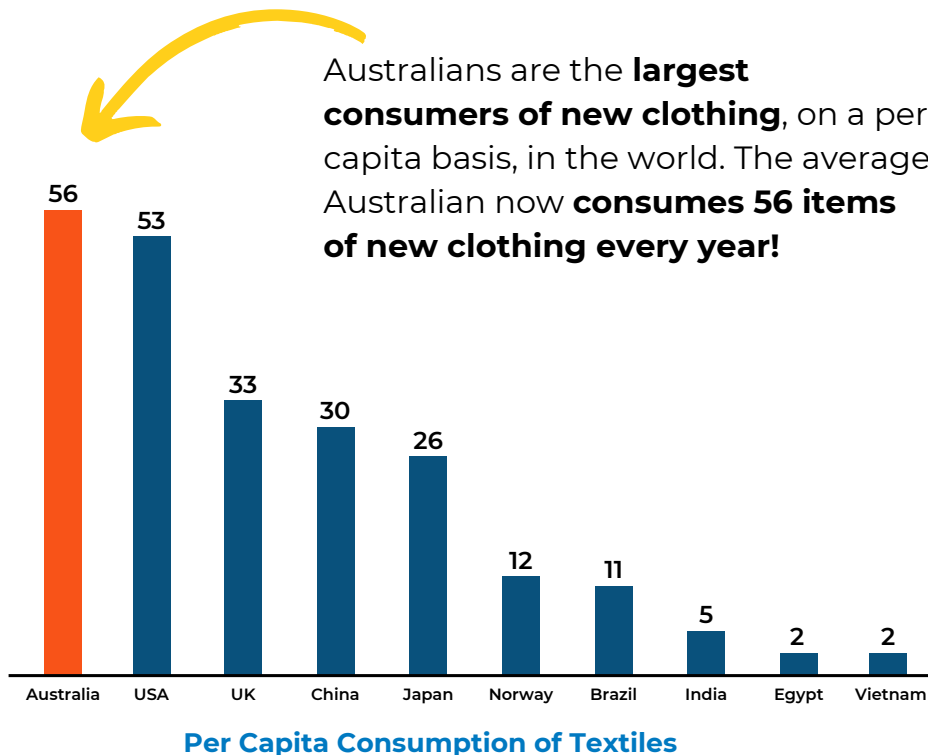
Two thirds goes directly to landfill.



Waste from **synthetic textiles**, which ultimately **breaks down into microplastics**, presents a persistent environmental and health hazard.

Over half (52%) of clothing sold in Australia is made from polyester (PET, which is derived from petroleum), and a further 10% is made from other synthetic (i.e. plastic) fibres.

The overproduction of the **fast fashion model** means that **billions of garments are never sold** or worn. Many go **straight to landfill or are incinerated**.



Australians purchase **60% more clothing** than they did 15 years ago and keep them for only half as long. **Australian only wears between 33 and 40% of their clothing.**



CLOTHING FACTS

Although charitable organisations can recover a substantial amount of textiles through donations, **they can only sell about 15% of these garments in stores.**

It is estimated that **62% of all donated clothing is exported for “reuse”**, but the reality is that much of this ends up in landfill overseas in a practice that has been dubbed **“waste colonisation”**.



Clothing and shoes should never be put in your household recycling bin.

Many **charities sell second-hand goods** and clothing via shops. They're great places to pick up a bargain and help a great cause at the same time!

GOLDEN RULE

If you would gift it to a friend or family member, then it's in good enough condition to donate to a charity shop.

REDUCE

Be conscious about your purchases. Consider if or why you need it in the first place.

REPAIR

Repairing clothes can be a cheap and convenient way to make the most of your well-loved outfits.

RECYCLE

Outside of donating quality clothes to charity, some stores are embracing recycling schemes and initiatives.

REFERENCES

[Textile Waste in Australia](#): Discussion Paper, 2024 - The Australia Institute

[Textile waste management in Australia: A review](#), 2023, Resources Conservations and Recycling Advances

CLOTHING SWAP

Resources

These are samples. Click each image to receive the template for your personal use.

Email Signature



Social Media



CLOTHING SWAP

Resources

These are samples. Click each image to receive the template for your personal use

Posters



Certificates



Invitations



Connect with us!

Show us your swap event:

Tag: @PlanetArk

Hashtag:









#NationalRecyclingWeek

#JointheCycle

National Recycling Week

CLOTHING SWAP








Workplace Checklist

-  **Schedule a time** around or during National Recycling Week into everyone's calendar so there aren't any clashes with other meetings or events.
-  **Set your ground rules;** you want to make sure people bring in good quality clothing and manageable quantities.
-  **Remember the Golden Rule:** the items people bring in should be of good quality. Would they gift it to a friend or family?
-  Use our **invitation, posters, and social media** templates to share details and information within the school community.
-  **Organise snacks and drinks.** Think about planning this event around regularly scheduled office events or see if there is room in the budget.
-  Have a plan for any leftovers. Check **Recycling Near You** for charity stores or recyclers who may have use for the items that don't get swapped.
-  **Turn the event into a fundraiser.** Use our donation flyer to provide a **QR code** to any staff who'd like to help Planet Ark continue the work they do.
-  Be sure to **have fun and say thanks** to everyone involved in making the event a huge success!

National Recycling Week

CLOTHING SWAP

Schools Checklist

-  Organise a time for your clothing swap during the **Schools Recycle Right** campaign to connect with other activities happening around the school.
-  **Set your ground rules**; you want to make sure students and parents bring in good quality clothing and manageable quantities.
-  **Remember the Golden Rule**: the items people bring in should be of good quality. Would they gift it to a friend or family?
-  Use our **invitation, posters, and social media templates** to share details and information within the school community.
-  If your event occurs outside of school hours, organise a pot luck or a bake sale so there are snacks and drinks to enjoy as well.
-  Have a plan for any leftovers. Check **Recycling Near You** for charity stores or recyclers who may have use for the items that don't get swapped.
-  Be sure to **say thanks** to everyone involved in making the event a huge success!







TRY THIS ON FOR SIZE

These events are great for parents who have uniforms their kids have outgrown. Try a uniform swap first before expanding into causal/play clothes.

National Recycling Week

CLOTHING SWAP

Council Checklist

-  **Register your event** for National Recycling Week to get your community involved.
-  **Set your ground rules;** you want to make sure people bring in good quality clothing and manageable quantities.
-  **Remember the Golden Rule:** the items people bring in should be of good quality. Would they gift it to a friend or family?
-  Use our **invitation, posters, and social media templates** to share details and information within the community.
-  Organise some **snacks and refreshments** if your event will run for a few hours. Be sure there are the **proper waste receptacles** available.
-  Have a plan for any leftovers. **Check Recycling Near You** for charity stores or recyclers who may have use for the items that don't get swapped.

TRY THIS ON FOR SIZE

Depending on the available resources, you might decide to host an event with a specific 'theme'. This may include partnering with schools or certain community groups.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We would like to acknowledge the Traditional Owners and Custodians of Country throughout Australia and recognises the continuing connection to lands, waters and communities.

We pay our respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures; and to Elders past and present.

For over 60,000 years, Indigenous people from all parts of Australia sourced materials needed for food, housing, clothes, and tools in a way that was both environmentally and socially sustainable.

Aboriginal people continue to care for Country, and we hope to follow this example with the work we do today.

More information about reconciliation can be found at:

[Reconciliation.org.au](https://reconciliation.org.au)