



## **Agnes Kainer Geyer** Volunteer Guide

I was born in Hungary, the child of holocaust survivors. My father survived forced labour camps and my mother was in concentration camp and forced labour as was my mother-in-law. They lost most of their families during the period 1944 to 1945. I was acutely aware of why I grew up with no grandparents, uncles and aunts.

We came to Australia as refugees in 1957 after the Hungarian uprising of 1956, a family of 4 with no supports or contacts. While we personally did not experience discrimination here in Australia many Europeans did. I am sadly aware of ongoing discrimination against Jews and gypsies back in Hungary. Throughout the world people are still being discriminated against on the basis of their religious beliefs, colour of their skin, country of origin, political beliefs, their sex or their sexual preference.

As the generation that experienced the discrimination and atrocities of the Nazi era rapidly diminish in number I see it as my responsibility to teach the lessons of the past to try to prevent such events in the future.

Courage to Care attracted me as it has such a positive message for the future while teaching the very sorry state of the past. Ordinary people having the courage to stand up and do what is right can have a major impact on an individual. As a group they can turn the tide!