Rita Baynash
Volunteer Guide

My parents settled in Cape Town, South Africa after fleeing from Hitler in Germany. They had the foresight to leave Germany in 1936 with just $10 each, having got married the day before. They were also fortunate to bring their parents and siblings out just before the war began. I was born in 1941, and when I was four we moved to Durban where life was good. I spent most of my school years there and met my future husband Philip.

In 1960, after the Sharpeville riots, the political situation turned nasty. My father, remembering what they had been through in Nazi Germany, wanted me to leave the country. So at the age of twenty I went to London to start a new life. The first year was very lonely but I managed to get into a secretarial course and eventually a job. Philip joined me a year later, studied law in London, and when he graduated we got married.

Our eldest son was born in London but after 8 years we went back to South Africa for family reasons. After another 8 years and two more children we decided that this was not the place to bring up our 3 sons. So in 1977 we migrated to Australia where, a few months later my parents joined us. Australia was the place where my parents really felt safe and free and where they lived out their lives content.

After arriving in Australia with three small children, we now have 11 grandchildren. However, as seems the way of the world these days, two of our children live overseas with their families. Fortunately one remains here with his family so we feel lucky. We are now retired and want to give something back, and Courage to Care is a way to help children understand how to deal with some of the harder things in life.