

Inspiring courage to care

RIGHT: A Holocaust survivor talks to students during an earlier Courage to Care exhibition in NSW



The importance of having courage and compassion and not being a bystander to prejudiced behaviour will be the message of the inspiring exhibition *Courage to Care*, which is coming to Cairns in August.

THIS four-week event, brought to Cairns by Cairns Catholic Education, will be held August 14 to September 11 at the Seville Mercy Conference Centre, Bauhinia Ave (Cnr Balaclava Rd) Earlvile and is open to schools across all sectors and the general public.

The exhibition demonstrates the importance of standing up to discrimination and bullying, through the use of one of the last century's most extreme examples, the Holocaust.

Communities and students will have the rare opportunity to hear first-hand from Holocaust survivors how bystander intervention played such an important role in ensuring their survival.

Among the Cairns Catholic school students already signed up for the exhibition are Year 10 students from St Monica's.

"The Year 10 Australian Curriculum Depth Study on World War II requires students to examine significant events of the war including the Holocaust so it has a relevant curriculum link," said St Monica's Humanities Middle Leader Catherine Taifalos.

"During the unit of work we challenge the girls to think critically and reflect on the connections between history and the contemporary moral choices they confront in their own lives such as loyalty, peer pressure, scapegoating, conformity and belonging," she said.

"By attending the exhibition students will learn first-hand from the experiences of those involved and become aware of the importance of making choices and come to realise that one person can make a difference.

"Essentially what we want our girls to take away from *Courage to Care* is how abolishing the civil rights of one group can lead to the abolition of those rights for all, so each person must take a stand against evil or eventually risk forfeiting all individual freedom."

Since its opening in 1999, the exhibition has been shown to over 190,000 visitors including 80,000 students across New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia and the ACT.

Catholic Education's head of Identity and Mission, Colin Harvey, said the exhibition was a never-to-be repeated opportunity and

"aims to highlight the problems of bullying, racism and discrimination and promote understanding and acceptance of all people in our multicultural society".

It is designed for Years 5 to 12 students with curriculum links in history, geography and religious education. Students will have a guided tour of the exhibition, hear a Holocaust survivor's positive story first hand and take part in a facilitated workshop.

"It is a life-changing experience that demonstrates that each person within the community can speak out and make a difference," Mr Harvey said.

"The exhibition does this through paying tribute to those brave people who had the courage to rescue Jewish people from Nazi persecution."

Courage to Care empowers participants to take positive action in relation to discrimination and bullying in all forms, from the school yard to the workplace and demonstrates the impact of bystander intervention.

"The programme has relevance for everyone. It challenges our thinking and our perceptions and has the potential to change

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our behaviour," Mr Harvey said.

"*Courage to Care* encourages young people to make a stand against injustice and be part of shaping our community for the future. It encourages the development of an intelligent, peaceful society with understanding and respect for all minority groups."

There is no admission charge, however visitors and students are asked to make a gold coin donation. Anyone wishing to book a group-guided session can phone Catholic Education on 4050 9700 or email courage2care@cns.catholic.edu.au. For more information, visit www.couragetocare.com.au

courage to care

FAIRNESS

ACCEPTANCE

DISCRIMINATION

ORDINARY PEOPLE –

PREJUDICE

RESPECT

EXTRAORDINARY ACTS



Courage to Care encourages the development of a peaceful society, with understanding and respect for all minority groups.

The *Courage to Care* program and travelling 3D exhibition is a community outreach initiative that demonstrates the importance of standing up to bullying and prejudice whenever it occurs. It provokes conversations about social justice and bystander intervention in our communities.

Through first-hand stories of survivors of the Holocaust and their rescuers, *Courage to Care* empowers visitors to recognise that, with their choices and actions, they can make a difference when confronted with discrimination, prejudice and bullying.

Courage to Care invites members of the public to view the exhibition on Mondays to Fridays 9am-5pm and Sundays 2-4pm. Bookings may be made for two hour guided sessions on the Sunday mornings of the exhibition.

14 August – 11 September, 2015

**Seville Mercy Conference Centre
35 Bauhinia Avenue (Cnr Balaclava Rd),
Earlvile, Cairns**

All schools in the region are invited to book student groups who will have a guided tour of the exhibition, hear a Holocaust survivor's positive story first hand and take part in a facilitated workshop. Group professional learning twilight sessions are also offered and bookings essential.

There is no admission charge however visitors are asked to make a gold coin donation. For general public guided tours, student bookings and group professional development bookings, please contact Catholic Education Services on 4050 9700 or courage2care@cns.catholic.edu.au

Beginning in 1999, the exhibition has been visited by nearly 190,000 people Australia wide.

For further information about the exhibition, visit www.couragetocare.com.au

