

VOLUNTEER ROLE DESCRIPTION

SURVIVOR STORYTELLER

What does Courage to Care do?

Courage to Care is a social acceptance and upstander education program which demonstrates the importance of standing up to prejudice and discrimination wherever it occurs. It empowers participants to realise that they, as individuals, can make a difference.

Programs are delivered in schools, universities and workplaces, or in conjunction with a travelling exhibition and are tailored to meet the requirements of each specific audience. Depending upon the number of participants and location, the programs may be scheduled for one day only or across several days or weeks. Each session usually runs from 90 minutes to two hours and includes a presentation, survivor story and discussion workshop.

What is your role as a Survivor Storyteller?

Tell your personal story. Give your recollections of the time and the ways in which you survived, highlighting, where appropriate, the role of those who had the courage to assist you to survive.

What is the outcome you need to achieve through sharing your story?

Survivors are the heart of Courage to Care and it is their personal story which makes the greatest impact on participants.

How are you expected to achieve this?

- Tell your story at a level suitable for your audience, recognising that some aspects may be inappropriate for younger children.
- Try to prepare your story with a simple structure – beginning, middle and conclusion in order to make the sequence of events clear for the listener.
- Highlight aspects of your story which reflect the principles of Courage to Care.
- Consider whether you have any photos or objects that relate to your story and would enhance it. Courage to Care will help you to prepare them for your use in the program.

What are the skills and knowledge required?

- Being prepared to share your story – we understand that reliving the past can be a very painful experience.
- Ability to work with a variety of audiences, from younger students to adults, and being comfortable with their reactions and the questions they may ask.
- Ability to tell your story using simple language so that younger students or students with no historical knowledge can understand your experience.
- Ability to work within the given timeframes – the successful delivery of the Courage to Care program is dependent on the completion of each component within a set time. Storytelling is usually 25 minutes.
- Understanding how your story fits together with other components of the program.
- Teamwork skills – the survivor story is the key part of the Courage to Care program, but the overall program requires all on-site volunteers to work collaboratively with other volunteers and staff.



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