



20 March 2020

Dear Courage to Care Community & Supporters,

We thank you for your tremendous support over the years in bringing the message of being an Upstander to Australians of all ages. In light of the rapidly developing COVID-19 crisis, we would like to share with you how Courage to Care NSW programming for 2020 is affected.

In the face of the COVID-19 virus, Courage to Care NSW remains committed to our mission of inspiring Australians to be Upstanders. The pandemic is bringing out the best and the worst in our society, as evidenced from the panic shopping and other incidents reported in the media. In practical terms, we are updating our community and supporters with the safety restrictions we are placing upon our programs. Our mission of educating Australians to be Upstanders is unwavering even in this time of uncertainty. Courage to Care management, staff and volunteers will lead by example, acting with purpose, caution and responsibility.

Firstly, the safety restrictions set in place by Courage to Care NSW reflects our duty of care to our many program volunteers and survivors considered “at-risk” due to the virus’s high impact rate on the elderly. As such, all Courage to Care programs in NSW, ACT and QLD involving face-to-face contact are suspended for the duration of Term 1. As subsequent School Terms approach, the Courage to Care NSW Board will determine if and for how long the suspension must remain in effect. Once the safety risk is resolved or mitigated, the programs will resume and volunteers and survivors will visit schools and run the travelling exhibitions.

Regarding our extremely popular Classroom Program operating in NSW & QLD, we are entirely committed to running our school programs once it becomes safe to do so. Prior to the COVID-19 crisis, the C2C Classroom Program reached over 500 students in Queensland schools and over 285 students in NSW. At this time, it appears that the many future school bookings we are forced to cancel will be able to be rescheduled for visits later in the 2020-21 financial year. We will keep you informed with these developments.

In this uncertain time when “social distancing” becomes the new norm, Courage to Care is reviewing our options to offer classroom programs via webcasting. In the past, our organisation successfully ran webcasting programs for rural schools in NSW, in coordination with the NSW Department of Education. The initial pilot project reached over 400 children. We will review the lessons from that pilot project to determine how Courage to Care can reintroduce online-based programming for students for the duration of the COVID-19 crisis, taking into account the rapidly changing situation in schools across the country.

We have seen how within a matter of weeks, Australian society has shaken to its core. We believe that the message of Courage to Care, to act as an Upstander, is now critical for our society to absorb. We thank you for your support and we will urge all Courage to Care community supporters to work with us to ensure our programs will continue while we manage the safety implications of the crisis.

Kind regards,



Kathy Sharp
Vice-Chair

B'nai B'rith Courage to Care (NSW) Inc.