

AROUND THE COMMUNITY

MP Thistlethwaite commends community group Courage to Care in Parliament

MEL BRAUN
COURAGE TO CARE

In MP Matt Thistlethwaite's speech to federal parliament this week he thanked the volunteers from the Courage to Care organisation for their work in helping individuals to stand up to prejudice.

Mr Thistlethwaite recently visited the Courage to Care NSW office which is based in his electorate of Kingsford Smith where he acknowledged the awarding of a community program grant from the Federal Government Department of Social Services.

MP Thistlethwaite showed a keen appreciation of the work of Courage to Care saying that Volunteers are vital to our community and the grant means that the organisation has been able to support the teaching of additional anti-discrimination programmes in our community. "It is vital that we enable Australians to stand up against prejudice" he said.

The grant is being used for volunteer training and equipment which includes microphones for survivor storytellers to better share their stories to educate, empower and inspire children and adults.

Eitan Neishlos, Courage to Care's Chair believes that the organisation



is vital to challenging attitudes and behaviours which lead to discrimination in our society. "We have a mandate to promote acceptance across Australian society. We do this by creating awareness of the dangers of prejudice, racism and discrimination and by demonstrating that every individual can make a difference by transforming "bystander" behaviour to "upstander".

Anna Marks OAM President B'nai B'rith NSW also attended, and the MP chatted with Courage to Care volunteer Holocaust survivor Ernie

Friedlander who survived the Holocaust due to the humanity of a German soldier who looked the other way when he and his mother escaped while being transported to a concentration camp. Mr Friedlander said "I firmly believe that each person should be judged on their own merit and there is no place for prejudice or generalisation".

The MP has a long positive association with the Jewish community, and in a sweet sidenote he shared that as a tot he had attended Mt Sinai pre-school.

"I speak with parents and tell them my story, what I went through and where I am today. I hope that in so doing I provide them with the hope they need."