

INFORMATION FOR HUMAN 'BOOKS'



The Hobart Human Library is a library just like any other – except the 'books' are real, living people!

The aim of the Hobart Human Library is to build empathy and increase the understanding and acceptance of difference between members of the community. It is all about two way listening and learning which empowers 'books' and readers alike.

Who can be a 'book' in the Hobart Human Library?

Human 'books' can come from any walk of life and from any background; though it should be kept in mind that the purpose of a human library is to promote an acceptance of the differences which may exist between members of a community. A human 'book' is usually someone who has experienced stereotyping, stigma or discrimination in their life and who now feels comfortable sharing the circumstances of that exclusion and how it felt in a face-to-face conversation with others.

Your role as a human 'book'

As a 'book' you will be able to share your story through conversation with the people who attend a live or virtual session, generally school students or people in workplaces. You do not need to be

an expert or feel as if you have to represent anyone else or an entire group of people. We only ask that you be yourself and share your story in a respectful and age-appropriate manner. It is not about lecturing, but about telling people about your personal experiences and answering questions with honesty and integrity.

Our experience shows that, rather than lecturing, it is more effective to find common ground and engage your readers' empathy. Remember – we don't know where anyone else is in their story, so try to tell your story in a gentle way and avoid detailed descriptions of potentially triggering content.

Training and support

Before you begin your time as a 'book' with Hobart Human Library, we will provide you with training (minimum 6 hours). The aim of the training will be to prepare you as a community educator by identifying the aspects of your experiences that you are comfortable sharing with other people; developing the story of your experiences; and writing your story to present in Hobart Human Library workshops. It is important to remember that you will never be asked to talk about anything you do not feel ready to share with others and you will be helped to prepare ways to deflect questions you do not feel comfortable to answer.

The Hobart Human Library will provide ongoing support to you as a human 'book' and community educator. There will always be trained volunteer librarians and staff at events to support you. There will also be other training and skill development opportunities that will allow you to engage in other training and education programs delivered by A Fairer World.

Human 'books' are paid an honorarium for each workshop they present.

For more information about the Hobart Human Library contact:

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