

In My Own Words

Since 2012, Road to Refuge has been on a mission to change the conversation on seeking refuge and asylum in Australia by providing a platform to amplify the voices and perspectives of those with lived experience of seeking asylum.

We work with people of refugee backgrounds to reclaim the mainstream discourse about them and reshape it: in their words and on their terms.

In 2019 we are launching our most concerted effort to date. **In My Own Words** is a storytelling and capacity building program designed to give young creatives of refugee backgrounds the skills they need to shape their story and let it be heard around the nation.



Built from collaboration

In 2018, Road to Refuge conducted a consultations report to find out how best our organisation could advocate with and serve Australia's community of people with refugee backgrounds and lived experienced seeking asylum. After speaking with dozens of advocates, common themes started to emerge:

MAKE A REAL INVESTMENT ... in the next generation of storytellers to help increase the amount of advocates telling their story publicly.

REMOVE BARRIERS ... Between the sector and young people of refugee backgrounds so they can access more resources for advocacy.

SKILLS FOR CONFIDENCE ... Skills are more than tools. Distributing practical, capacity building based assistance, helps teach people to confidence to grow their projects and advocacy.

It's more than skills, It's ownership of story



I was 20 years old when I first started talking about how I came to Australia and how I came to be an Australian. The reason I decided to tell my story was because of the power I realised that it had. By talking about my background and sharing my experiences, I could see an immediate shift in people's perceptions of refugees. This made me feel powerful! It made me wish I had told my story earlier...if only I had had the skills, confidence and support I needed to do so. I started the 'In My Own Words' program to inspire the next generation of refugee storytellers to realise the power of their stories.

— Jeanine, Program Director.

Program outline

Storytelling in multiple mediums:

From written word to video, through to pod-casts and photo-books, there are many ways to communicate a story.

Navigating The Sector:

Learn how to manage the power structures, sources of influence and trends that make up the refugee sector in Australia.

Building a personal brand:

Building a personal brand that best represents you, and helps navigate where, how and when you'll tell your story.

Fundraising and Pitching:

How to pitch your project, and tailor your ask to funders to support you to develop and share your story.

Collaboration With Experts!

You'll have the opportunity to develop your story alongside leading advocates, professionals and storytellers who share a passion for social change.

We want Your help!

By partnering with Road to Refuge on the In My Own Words program, you'll be aligning your brand with one of the most innovative non-profits in Australia. You'll receive recognition as a partner organisation through promotional material by Road to Refuge and Bank Australia (our program funder).

Most importantly, you'll be helping the next generation of storytellers and advocates develop skills that will last a lifetime.

We're looking for sponsorship (cash and in-kind), publication partners and mentorship support for participants. If you'd like to contribute please contact our Director, Priya Pavri at priya.p@roadtorefuge.com.

Key dates

First Workshop | 4 April

Two and half hours at the Multicultural Hub.

Second Workshop | 10 April

Two and half hours at the Multicultural Hub.

Weekend Intensive | 4 & 5 May

Two full day workshops at the Brunswick Mechanics Institute.