

Safe storytelling and controlling your narrative

Case Studies

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Case study 1 – refugee organisation

The case:

You have received a phone call from a Not For Profit (NFP) organisation of which you are a member and they have asked you to share your “refugee story” on Refugee Day for this organisation to build awareness around refugee issues. You have shared your “refugee story” several times but have recently decided that you would only share your story when you feel it is worthwhile for you and your community.

The staff member from the NFP who contacted you mentioned that you will be paid what you consider a fair amount and has asked for you to include the following within your story:

- How you arrived,
- Why you escaped,
- How you have overcome barriers to contribute and integrate into Australian society;
- How the refugee organisation has played a role in empowering you.

Discuss with your group:

- 1) What concerns do you have about this organisation’s approach and process? Why?
- 2) How would you approach this scenario if you were asked to be the Story Teller?
- 3) How would you approach this scenario if you worked for the organisation?
- 4) What strategies would you recommend to improve the organisation’s future Story Telling processes?

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Case study 2 – youth health advocacy organisation

The case:

You receive a request from a youth health advocacy organisation to talk at a corporate event in recognition of World Mental Health Day, which will be in two weeks. They invite you to speak to an audience to raise the awareness of youth mental health across Australia.

The advocacy organisation provides you with talking points which the corporate has asked you to speak to. After that point they would like you to take questions from staff members.

They mention that the event will be as part of the organisation raising funds for the advocacy organisation who has asked you to speak. They also note that they will record the session so they can share it across their staff network which comprises 5,000 people nationally as well as share sections of the talk and photos via their social media channels.

The questions you are asked to speak to are:

- How have you overcome the struggles of living with a mental health issue?
- What can we do as a community to make you feel more accepted?
- What you do every day is inspiring! Can you tell us about how you do it?

Discuss with your group:

1. What concerns do you have about the corporate organisation's approach and process? Why?
2. What concerns do you have about the advocacy organisation's approach and process? Why?
3. How could this scenario be improved? What feedback would you provide to the advocacy organisation and corporate?
4. Would you accept the invitation to speak? Why or why not?