

I was looking for a purpose

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Volunteer



My role as a monthly volunteer speaker with the Moorabbin Road Trauma Awareness Seminar has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life.

I will never forget the young woman who entered a seminar with the biggest chip on her shoulder and only participating because she was ordered to by a judge. At the end of the seminar she came up to me with tears in her eyes and told me she would always remember my story. She would make positive changes for the sake of her little girl.

I am a volunteer speaker, hopefully to help others make changes in their behaviour and save lives by sharing my own personal life experiences.

My road trauma story is a sobering one. As a very small child I was witness to the terrible injuries my father and uncle received after their car crashed into a light pole. When I was

15 years old I witnessed my grandfather being hit by a car while crossing the road. In both cases they were to survive but with very serious injuries.

At the age of 32 I witnessed the immediate aftermath of my mother's death. She had been walking across the Nepean Highway. It was Remembrance Day 1988, before the existence of RTSSV. It is, of course, indelibly imprinted on my mind. The shock of witnessing such a horrific scene and the death of the most important person in my life, and the images that go with it, have always been with me.

I was also witness to the negative effects such incidents have on witnesses and emergency workers. Such tragedies have a never-ending ripple effect.

Road trauma has played a major role in my life, and I am so grateful for the existence of an

organisation such as RTSSV and the support it provides to people in times of tragedy and hardship. I only wish that it had existed in my time of need but am so glad it does now.

I never expected that the most tragic episode in my life would lead to me volunteering for RTSSV. In January 2016 after a long recovery from illness, I was looking for a purpose in life when I spotted a request for volunteer speakers. I had no idea what would be involved and whether I'd be up to the task.

The seminars are an excellent way of drawing people's attention to the far-reaching implications of their actions while in control of a vehicle. If my talks can lead to participants thinking twice about taking risks behind the wheel, then I am proud to be part of such a proactive and supportive organisation.