

*Everyone has a story to tell...
Even the simplest of stories
are great stories!*

WHAT IS THE LIFE STORIES SERVICE?

The Life Stories Service provides a way for people to review and share their life story (or parts of their life) with family and friends.

The person's stories are recorded by a volunteer biographer, transcribed and then made into a book which is given to the person or their family.

The simple process of telling one's life story has many benefits:

For the person:

- Reclaim your identity back
- Recognition of your achievements
- Personal reflection and meaning
- Tell your story in your own words
- Relive memories and experiences
- Share memories with family and friends
- Celebration of life and affirm dignity
- Leave a legacy for loved ones

For the volunteers:

- Develop a meaningful relationship with the storyteller
- Satisfaction from creating a meaningful piece of writing

HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS

When you request to be part of the program:

- Your Support Coordinator or MND Advisor will refer you to the Life Story Service.
- A specially trained volunteer will make contact with you via phone to confirm details and give you some basic information about the program. A consent form to participate will then be sent to you for signing and a visit or video chat at a mutually agreed time will be arranged to start your life story.
- Stories are captured during sessions of up to one hour over 5 –10 visits using a digital recorder or note taking. You have the freedom to stop a session to rest or withdraw at any time.
- Following each session the volunteer transcribes and lightly edits the shared material, including photos and other documents that you may wish included.
- This is shared before the next meeting and changes can be made before continuing on with your story.
- After the final recording session, the volunteer prepares the final copy and confirms you are happy with the final product before taking it to printing in the format that you have decided on.
- The finished document will be delivered within four weeks

It is preferred family members and/or carers are not present during the recording sessions to allow both the person and volunteer to focus on the story telling. *(This will be flexible dependent on your stage of illness and your wishes).*

THE FINISHED PRODUCT

Your payment for the final product will depend on the version you have chosen and how many copies you wish to print. You will also be provided with an electronic copy.

MND Queensland will not keep any copies of your life story once it is complete. All documentation will be destroyed, to ensure complete confidentiality.

OWNERSHIP

You as the story teller decide the direction and focus of the story and retain ownership of it at all times. You can use and distribute the material how you wish.

Once delivered - your Life Story is your property.

WHO CAN TAKE PART?

The Life Stories Service is a free service available to all our client members. If you are not currently a member please email info@mndaq.org.au or call us. Membership is free for anyone with an MND diagnosis.



ABOUT OUR VOLUNTEERS

Our volunteers are beautiful helpers who selflessly give up their time to provide this cherished service to our clients. Please rest assured they have completed special training before commencing the Life Story Service and bring their own wonderful skills to the program.

PRIVACY & CONFIDENTIALITY

The Life Story Program is a free and confidential service.

MND Queensland is committed to ensuring that confidentiality between the person and volunteer is maintained.

Both parties will be required to sign an agreement prior to commencing the recording sessions. All documentation related to your individual biography will be destroyed after printing.

MORE INFORMATION

For more information or to express interest in the Life Stories Service, please speak to your MND Advisor or Support Coordinator.

We are always looking for more volunteers so please forward this brochure if you know of anyone you think would be suitable.



ABOUT MND QUEENSLAND

MND Queensland (or the Motor Neurone Disease Association of Queensland Inc.) is a not-for-profit charity that was formed in 1983 to provide support and services for Queenslanders impacted by Motor Neurone Disease.

Our Vision:

A world free of Motor Neurone Disease.

Our Mission:

Our mission is to ensure access to best practice care and support for every Queensland impacted by MND and contribute to finding a cure.

LIFE STORIES PROGRAM



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*until there is a cure
there is care*

