

SMALL CHANGE BIG EFFECT



FREEDOM
— HUB —

Survivor School Services

Empowering Survivors of Modern Slavery

Presentation Outline

LIST OF TOPICS

Who we Are

Our Story so Far

About our Service

About our Survivor School

About our Other Services

About our Long Term Care

About our Teams

Our Back Story - video

Referral Process

Case Studies



“

“START BY DOING WHAT’S
NECESSARY, THEN DO WHAT’S
POSSIBLE, AND SUDDENLY YOU
ARE DOING THE IMPOSSIBLE.”



WHO WE ARE

The Freedom Hub exists to:

- End modern slavery in Australia
- Help victims recover & rebuild
- Partner to end global slavery

We do this by:

- **Raising awareness** in communities and industries at risk; working in various anti-slavery networks; to lift understanding within Australia.
- Running a **Survivor School** for survivors of this crime to rebuild their life to live successful independent lives.
- **Train & equip Australian businesses** to become ethical by assessing the risk of slavery in their supply chains and weaving human rights into the fabric of their company culture.

"I believe we could be the first country in the world to have no slavery. But to do that, we need prevention, awareness and leadership in ending this crime. We can also directly impact global slavery as 75% of the world's slaves are in Asia/Pacific."

Sally Irwin - Founder

Our Story



Founded in 2014

The Survivor School began in August 2014, and our Social Enterprise Cafe/Event Venue opened in March 2015.

Community Growth 2015 - 2020

Our Survivor Program now supports over 70 survivors of modern slavery. Our Social enterprise now includes 2 cafes; events, retail & ethical business consulting.

Expansion 2021 >

The school curriculum has moved to online courses (as well as face to face) and can now be offered across Australia, with the assistance of our local Education Coaches.

About our Service

When a survivor escapes their situation they have nothing but the clothes they are wearing. No identity, no home, no food, no money, no phone. These basic needs are usually provided by Australia's 'Support for Trafficked Persons Program'.

But their hierarchy of needs requires much more. This is where we step in. Our first priority is to help them feel safe, and build trust with them. Once trust is established we work with them to establish their goals and whether they wish to proceed through the Australian justice system. We work with the authorities &/or partners to establish the best legal pathway forward.

Initially we invite them to small gatherings so they find peers and don't feel alone. We invite them to online or face to face workshops that are fun, educational and therapeutic. We offer equine assisted therapy, swimming, trauma informed yoga and other physical activities. Then when they feel safe and ready, we tailor an individual success plan from courses in our Survivor School Program.



THE FREEDOM HUB OFFERS LONG TERM, WRAP AROUND CARE

ABOUT OUR SURVIVOR SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Recover & Rebuild Program

Online or Face to Face Assisted* Courses that are trauma informed include:

| | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| Health & Wellbeing | My Community |
| Living in Australia | English Class |
| English Conversation Group | Communication Skills |
| Health and Self Care | Parenting |
| One on One Tutoring | Mindfulness |

* assisted by one of our local "Education Coaches"

Thrive Program

Courses to prepare for successful independent living:

| | |
|------------------------|---------------|
| Work Ready | Office Skills |
| ICT & Computer Skills | Money Minded |
| Advanced Communication | Study Skills |

Employment Pathways or Study Pathways are included.

Adhoc external courses provided as needed
eg barista / first aid / RSA / childcare / nursing etc

View most of our Curriculum online at: www.thefreedomhubschool.thinkific.com

About our Other Services

01



Outings & Workshops

Feeling safe and in a community of support is vital to the beginning of recovery. Online coffee chats, parenting/mothers group, & English conversation are a few activities. Organised educational excursions also develop community, friends and confidence eg the Zoo, Blue Mountains, Equine Therapy Days , Museums, Movies etc

02



Tutoring / Study Pathways

When a survivor has completed our School Program or any of the courses they need to do to equip them for further studies or work; we offer one on one tutoring to help them through TAFE, or other qualifications they are seeking. eg RSA, barista, First Aid, Australian Citizenship etc

03



Employment Pathways

We have partnered with a number of businesses to offer our survivors paid "work experience". This gives them an introduction back into a safe workplace, it gives them confidence and value, a taste of financial independence and a reference for future employment. Many of our employment partners end up employing our clients full time. We select and train these partners carefully.

Our Long Term, Wrap Around Care

Even after a year or two of working hard to rebuild their life, a survivor can continue to battle mental health issues of anxiety, fear and insecurity. Slavery causes complex trauma that becomes part of a survivor's being and can easily be triggered from smells, sounds or sights. Learning to manage these triggers can be a life long lesson.

Then there are the unplanned or new situations they have never navigated before. For example: signing their own lease, doing a tax return, a huge dentist bill or health issue. With few friends and often no family, we are their 'go to' when problems arise.

Our policy of 'helping whenever we can' never ends. As a result, our 'Alumni' contact us as needed, or join our social and peer support activities to stay connected. And if we haven't heard from them, we check in quarterly.



WE ARE THE ONLY ORGANISATION IN AUSTRALIA WORKING SPECIFICALLY TO HELP MODERN SLAVERY SURVIVORS LONG TERM

About our Local & Regional Teams

01



Awareness

Activism & Advocacy drives change. Volunteer Teams host presentations, and be a voice for those with none. They run events in their community to raise awareness and fundraise . They share our social posts and network in their community, engaging partners.

02



Education Coaches

Trained and experienced trauma informed coaches assist each survivor through a course, working at a pace that suits the survivor. Confidentiality and safety for both is a major priority in all our policies and processes.

03



Coaching & Monitoring

Face to face coaching and support is provided as required. Our national Survivor Experience Manager works with case workers to monitor the survivors progress, mental health and ongoing needs. She tailors a recovery pathway and assigns Education Coaches.

Referrals

Australia's 'Support for Trafficking Persons Program'.

Many of our clients come through this government pathway. Once the AFP have identified the victim, they are placed in this 60 day program managed by The Red Cross. Caseworkers set the justice system in place with assistance from Anti-Slavery Australia, visas are provided, medicare, Centrelink and all the survivors basic needs. The client then has 4 to 5 years to await the trial. We engage them in our programs during this time, with a focus on their future hopes and dreams.

Other Services & NGO's

As most victims of modern slavery are threatened and controlled psychologically; not many go to the police or willingly come forward due to fear. Some do not even know they are in slavery. Community services like Domestic Violence Centres, Asylum Seekers and Refugee Centres, Medical Centres, hospitals, Youth Centres are often the way victims are identified. We can train these frontline services in identification and many already refer survivors to us.

Direct / Self Referrals

Businesses, neighbours, customers often suspect or identify victims of slavery and call us for help. We have a defined process for how we go about helping a victim find freedom from their circumstances and if they are in immediate danger we will always refer to the AFP. If the survivor is not in immediate danger and is still working up the courage to leave, we will meet with them in a place they feel safe and present the options that they have to choose from. Safety for all concerned is our 1st priority.

contact us: info@thefreedomhub.org

Case Studies

Australia's 'Support for Trafficked Persons Program'.

I am from Nigeria where I studied business, and saved to further my studies in Australia – so one day I could run my own restaurant in my hometown. When I arrived in Sydney, I was picked up by my recruitment agency and they took my passport so they could ‘sort out my visa’.

They took me to a ‘hotel’ where I was forced to live and have sex with men many times a day. My captors told me that if I told the police or tried to escape I would be arrested and never be able to return home again. I did not understand why this was happening to me. I did not want this job. I didn’t sleep much. I didn’t eat much.

Eventually I was forced to take drugs to ‘keep my energy up’ – and then had to sell them to others. I was moved to six other ‘hotels’ over two years.

Then, one day, the police came and shut down my last ‘hotel’ – and I was taken to a safe house. Since that day I celebrate my freedom every day. Although I have lost two years of my life and still suffer nightmares, I have discovered strength, endurance and the importance of freedom.

I now attend lessons at The Freedom Hub four times a week, learning new life and work skills to prepare me for working in Australia. One day I would still like to run my own restaurant, so The Freedom Hub has given me the opportunity to learn barista skills at college in the city as a first step.

Soon, when I am working, I will be able to send money back home to my family to support them. And, one day, I hope to go and see them again.

Other Services & NGO's

I grew up in an area of Turkey and lost my parents in a war. My grandparents raised my siblings and me, but now they are old and can’t work. So when an agent said I could work in the beauty industry in Australia – and earn ten times the amount I earn at home – I was very happy and immediately signed the paperwork agreeing to go.

When I landed in Australia, the agent took me to my new house where I had to share a bedroom with six people, sleeping on the floor. I grew up sharing a small space with my family, so I didn’t think anything was wrong. They took my passport for the visa to be organised, and I was introduced to my new boss. My first day, I worked 14 hours without any break for food. I could only go to the bathroom twice a day and had five minutes at 11am and 3pm to eat whatever food I brought from home. That first week I barely ate anything; I had no money. The other women shared some of their food with me. After my first week I was paid \$80. I had worked seven days from 7am to 9pm. Even though it was hard work I got more money than I had ever had. I was in this job for 16 months. As the months went by I started to get sick. My back was very painful and every time I ate I was in pain. One day I was too sick to go to work and my boss kicked me in the stomach because I complained. I couldn’t move for four days, I had so much pain. My boss would come in and hit me to try and get me to get up, but I couldn’t. When I finally managed to work again I got very ill and collapsed. That’s when one of my customers helped and I ended up in hospital. They told me I was lucky to be alive. The police asked questions about the bruises on my body – and they went to rescue all the other women.

Now I am learning English and studying office and life skills at The Freedom School. I want to work in an office, as I love organising and working on the computer. When I can get my identity papers again, I’m hoping to get my first proper job next year, and start saving money to go home to my family. I love the feeling of freedom I get when I study.

Direct / Self Referrals

A survivor of Forced Marriage came to us having heard about us from a friend in her community. This is now a more common occurrence, in our country.

This survivor experienced very severe violence and trauma imposed upon her by her most trusted people.. her family. No young girl, woman, or child should have to endure this pain. Let alone in their own home. This girl is the bubbliest, sweetest, kindest and most positive young lady and you would never know by meeting her that she was hiding such heavy secrets.

She even said, “I truly only wish my family well, in spite of what they did to me. I want to know my parents are ok, and I really want them to be happy. But for me to move forward, I know that I need to hide from my parents.”

This amazing young lady is attending as many of our Survivor School classes as she can. She wants to be an Engineer. And she will. This is true resilience.

Referral Process



Identification

A victim/survivor is identified and referred to us through one of the three pathways mentioned. Contact us for a referral form.



Assessment

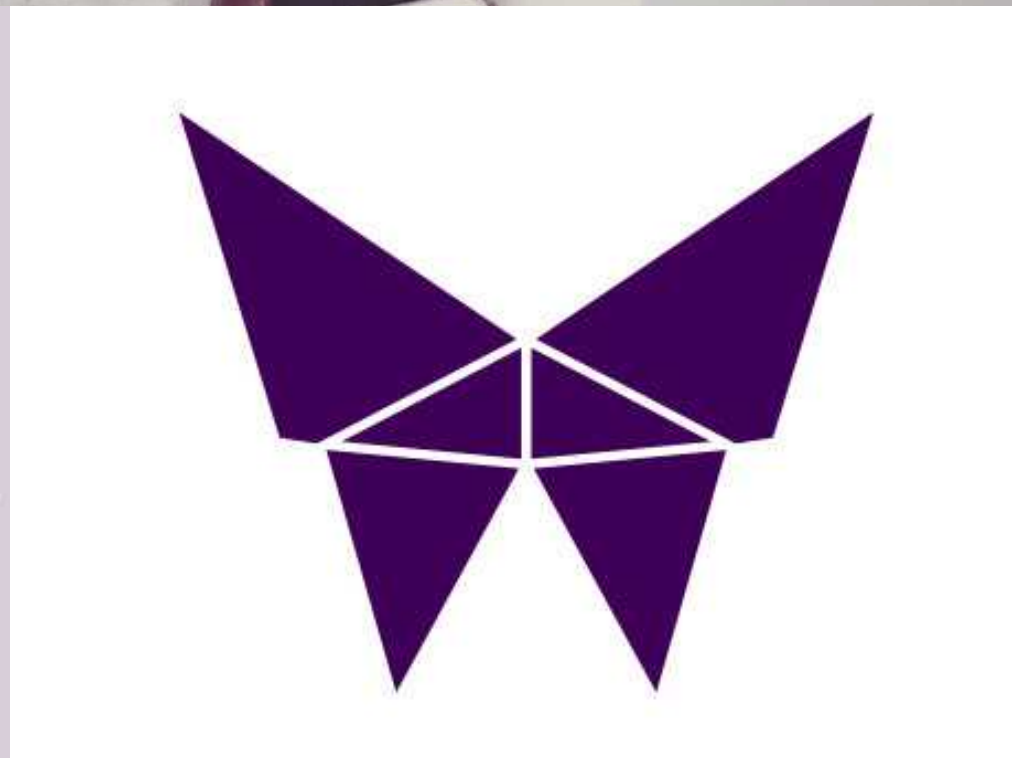
We assess the victim/survivors immediate needs and execute a plan appropriate to their needs and safety.



Support

In consultation with the survivor we identify their long term goals and develop a support plan to help them achieve their hopes.

The Freedom Hub does not charge for referrals however it costs an average of \$5000p.a. per survivor for their 'basic' support management for the first two years. If they have medical, mental or personal needs above this, we need to fundraise for further support. As we are not government funded, we ask for sponsorship toward the referred victim/survivor as this will ensure they are well supported for recovery and living a successful independent life.



FINAL COMMENTS

The Freedom Hub is

- a Registered Australian Charity.
- in the Government Advisory Group for the National Action Plan to Combat Slavery.
- in the Westpac Advisory Group for their Safer Children, Safer Communities Program
- holds a position on the Commonwealth Human Rights 8.7 Network Management Committee, as representative for the Pacific Region.
- part of the Australian Anti-Trafficking Network
- part of the NSW Forced Marriage Network
- part of the Queensland Network to End Slavery and Trafficking
- was the Winner of NSW Social Enterprise Award 2019, Sydney region, for our cafe work in ethical supply.
- Social Traders Certified for our ethical retail & coffee

Contact Us:

Got Questions

Schedule a chat with our Founder
calendly.com/sallyirwin

Read our website and 'articles' www.thefreedomhub.org

Follow us: #freedomhuborg @freedomhuborg

Email Address

info@thefreedomhub.org

