

STORYTELLING WITH A PURPOSE

'To inspire, educate, advocate and build connection'



**RAISING
VOICES
REFORMING
THE
SYSTEM**

STORYTELLING TELLS THE STORY OF WHY.

Why people care, why your work matters.

Important to note: It's important for you to share only what feels comfortable for you. This template is designed to help you reflect on and share your lived and professional experiences in a way that inspires learning, connection, and positive change.

STORY STRUCTURE

Introduction/building connection

What we're looking for: Briefly introduce yourself beyond your work role to create a connection with your audience. Share a few details about your life, background, or interests to help others connect with you.

Prompts: Who are you beyond your work? Where did you grow up? What are your interests or passions? What inspired you to choose your career? Is there someone/something that inspires you?

Specific experience

What we're looking for: Describe a memorable or impactful experience from your work. Focus on a challenge, a turning point, or an inspiring moment, and explain the choices you made during the event.

Prompts: This could be a good news story, or a reflection on something. Maybe an experience you have personally faced as an individual working in the department.

- Identify the specific event/challenge or actions that set your story in motion.
- Why did you make the choice you made? What was at stake? What values or strengths guided your actions? How did it feel?

The outcome

What we're looking for: Share the result of your experience. Reflect on what you learned, how it made you feel, and any inspiration or hope it might offer to others.

Prompts: Share the result of your experience. How did this experience affect others (children, families, colleagues, or community)? Reflect on what you learned, how it made you feel, and any inspiration or hope it might offer to others. What was the outcome? How did you feel? What hope can it give?

The future

The "what now?": Connect your personal story to a larger, relevant workplace theme. For example, your experience with burnout could lead to a broader discussion about workload management.

A call to action: What can we, as a team/group put forward to have changed to better support the work we do. Are you asking for change? What would that be? What change do you hope for and why? What could the future look like if change is made? What impact can change make?

WORKSHEET.

Putting your own story together.

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Specific experience

The outcome

The future

My name's Michael, and I'm a Child Safety Support Officer.

It's hard to describe a "standard day" in my job — because every day is different. Some days I'm behind a desk doing admin work. Other days I'm out meeting with families and children, listening to their stories, understanding their needs, and helping put the right supports in place.

At the end of the day, everything I do comes back to one purpose — supporting our communities. If my role disappeared tomorrow, I wouldn't just miss the job itself. I'd be disappointed because communities need jobs like this. They need people who can connect, advocate, and make sure no child or family falls through the cracks.

That's why I'm taking part in the Raising Voices, Reforming the System campaign — and why I'm asking you to do the same.

Every story helps build the case for real reform in child safety.

My name's Kat — I've worked in child safety for years, as a Child Safety Officer, Acting Team Leader and now as a Senior Training Officer.

I love my job. We have the power to bring hope and create real change for children and families. But it's not easy.

I've seen far too many losses, especially in our placement systems. It breaks my heart to see children moved again and again, separated from the families they came into care with. What hurts most is seeing comments online saying that child safety officers don't care or aren't doing their jobs — when in reality, we give our heart and soul to everything we do.

That's why this Inquiry matters. It's our chance to show the truth — that it's not the people who are broken, it's the system.

The more of us who speak up, the stronger our voice will be.

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**'To inspire, educate, advocate
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Authorised Alex Scott, Together, 43 Peel St South Brisbane 4101

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