



## Tim's story

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I had my crash in NSW more than 23 years ago. There was no support for road trauma, in fact I never received any counselling to help me process what had happened. I have been involved with RTSSV for only a few years, so I am just a new volunteer. I was aware of RTSSV for a couple of years before making contact.

It was not until my appointment on the Victorian Road Safety Alliance that I took the time to find out about the work that RTSSV undertook. Working with the Victorian Road Safety Alliance gave me the opportunity to be involved in all facets of road safety. However RTSSV filled a special desire; to assist other people who have been involved in road trauma, not to suffer the same experiences I had suffered. There is help and support available from people who were not just on the same journey, but people like me, who were just a little further down the road; that there is hope, healing and possibility in their future. I didn't want others to suffer in silence as I did.

It's just too simple to say I wanted to make a difference. The fact is that a little boy was killed, his

life had meaning and value, and his death was not in vain. I can't change my experiences, but I can stand in the gap and use my experience to prevent others from going through what I went through at 19 years of age. The police officers I talk to can gain an understanding of road trauma from the offenders' perspective so that the next incident they attend they are there with compassion and empathy for all who are impacted. That is the value I take from working with RTSSV.

I am always humbled to share in the stories of others, to hear their pain and sorrow, to laugh and cry along with people's journeys through life. It's such a privilege to be given that opportunity. This is the difference my involvement has made to me. In sharing my story, others are able to take just a glimpse, like looking through a window into my world. For some, my story will challenge their beliefs, values and judgements. But for others, it's the first time someone just understands.

**Tim Nolan**