

## **Rob Harley**

Speaker/Communicator/Author/Documentary Maker

### **Profile**

Rob Harley is one of New Zealand's most experienced journalists and communicators.

His fifty-year career as a writer across all mediums has involved him telling dramatic stories in Aotearoa, and some of the most dangerous places in the world, from where he has constructed award-winning programmes seen by millions.

As a television reporter, Rob specialised in advocacy journalism. His efforts in the early 1980's exposed the shocking state of hospital conditions for children in Auckland and led to the eventual building of Starship Hospital. A few years later he teamed up with other reporters to campaign for better road safety in New Zealand and this journalism partly led to the reduction of the road toll from 858 in 1973 a low of 250 by 2020.

He also exposed major deficiencies in other parts of the health system - especially psychiatric care - leading to significant reforms.

Internationally his journalism has tracked down the murderer of a Kiwi photojournalist, uncovered the truth behind several airline disasters, and led to the establishment of major aid programmes in the Third World.

Rob has had an extensive career as a speaker and teacher on many issues.

He specialises in subjects such as building resilience, coping with depression and mental illness, tales of lives redeemed from all manner of pain, and tells amazing stories about the astonishing people he has met from his role both behind and in front of the camera.

Audiences are regularly profoundly moved by Rob's consummate ability as a storyteller.

Rob speaks to groups of all ages and stages in life. For many years he was on the National Young Leaders' roadshow around New Zealand, speaking to tens of thousands of high school students. The reviews from children and teachers were overwhelmingly positive.

He is also at ease speaking at everything from a school principals' conference, a multi-level marketing conference, to frontline police and especially people involved in volunteer work of any kind. Rob's documentary-making efforts have helped to build a number of highly successful aid organisations in places like Romania, India, Ghana, Cambodia and many other settings.

There are some unique aspects to the stories Rob is currently telling. He is quite upfront about being a mental health survivor, a liver transplant recipient, and a de facto counsellor for people at risk of suicide and self-harm. He regularly takes time out to support all manner

of charities, including the mentoring of at-risk youth and work among refugees in several countries.

In his current role as a Communications Specialist with Health New Zealand/Te Whatu Ora, he brings great insight on virtually every aspect of frontline medical care. He is an ideal speaker for either a lay or professional audience of any type.

Rob weaves into his presentations some of the most profoundly moving stories you'll ever hear, complete with high-impact video clips from his many documentaries.

He has written seven books on a variety of subjects including 'A Safe Place to Cry' which explores how professionals whose lives revolve around dealing with trauma process their own pain from what they witness in their jobs.

His new project is a major piece of writing called 'Women of Courage' in which he explores the bravery and resilience of 11 incredible women who have overcome huge odds to bring about profound societal change in Aotearoa and around the world.

Comments from past speaking engagements:

"Everyone listening to Rob was intensely moved. There wasn't a dry eye in the room."  
-Business leaders conference attendee

"Rob held us spellbound – he could have gone on for hours!"  
-Executive woman leader

"I learned lessons about life from Rob I will never forget."  
-Teacher

"He held our kids in the palm of his hand."  
-From National Young Leaders Day events

Please feel to contact Rob at any time at [rob@robharley.co.nz](mailto:rob@robharley.co.nz) or on 021508290







