



SPEAKERS KIT

Melissa Abu-Gazaleh

Founder & CEO.

Leader in boy's social education.



www.melissaabugazaleh.com



**We cannot always build
the future for our youth,
but we can build
our youth for the future.**

ABOUT MELISSA

Selected as one of Australia's 100 Brightest Young Minds and recognised in Australia's Young & Extraordinary series, Melissa Abu-Gazaleh is passionate about delivering daring young male social education programs to combat the trends of anti-social and risk-taking behaviours.

At age 19, she realised there was something drastically wrong with how Australian young men were not engaged in the community. As a young female, Melissa was always fortunate to participate in a range of self-development and leadership programs purely because she was a young female. Yet, with young men over-represented in youth crime, alcohol-related violence and mental health statistics, Melissa became frustrated with the lack of investment in young men's social and emotional welfare.

So in 2006, Melissa established the Top Blokes Foundation, a youth-led organisation that has worked with thousands of adolescent boys and young men, improving their mental health and well-being through peer mentoring and social education programs.



Powered by her favourite quote “We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future”, Melissa is not shy to speak honestly about the crisis Australia faces with its young males and how young men play a role in building their own brighter future. She is equally as passionate about youth leadership and empowering young people to become agents of change, not tomorrow, but today.

Melissa has previously spoken at major events including the National Boy's Health Forum, Men's Health Conference, National Volunteering Conference and often speaks at various university and high school leadership and career events.

Melissa's bold and daring presentations have inspired and educated thousands of Australians to join the movement in building a new generation of young male Top Blokes.



KEYNOTE PRESENTATION TOPICS

Melissa is a professional speaker who has presented to over 7,000 Australians. Melissa is passionate about delivering thought-provoking and memorable keynote presentations and workshops to young people, parents, educators and business leaders.

PORN IN A YOUNG MAN'S WORLD

Did you know that 88% of pornographic scenes feature physical violence and aggression? Yet young males aged 12-17 years are the fastest growing group of pornography users, leading to a culture where violence in intimate relationships may be normalised. Melissa presents an insightful presentation on the key effects of a pornified culture on young males, its effects on young men's bodies and personal relationships with practical tips to reduce porn use for a healthier lifestyle. This presentation is suited to both young males themselves, parents, educators and service providers.

STOPPING BOYS IN THEIR DOWN-HILL SPIRAL

When a boy is on a down-hill spiral, it's easy to feel helpless and unaware of how to help. Engaging young males who are at-risk and disadvantaged within the community is no easy task. Melissa draws on her 10 years of experience working with young men to highlight the key elements in addressing young men's health and well-being. This also includes effective methods to involve them in civic engagement activities, employment readiness programs and school settings. This presentation is best suited for service providers, educators and parents.

THE JOURNEY OF A YOUNG FEMALE CEO

Does a young female feel the glass ceiling effect in today's modern world? Beginning an organisation for young men at age 19, Melissa knew very little about business. She was, however, an expert in passion, drive and never taking no for an answer (that's all you need to succeed right?). Little did she know that her ethnic background, her gender, her high school and even the region she came from would affect how the business and media industry saw her. Being a young woman in business, Melissa shares her journey and highlights the critical elements that each business can do to build the next generation of young women in business. This presentation is best suited for corporate events and all female audiences.



BECOMING LEADERS OF TODAY, NOT TOMORROW

Designed to boost the passion and determination of emerging leaders aged 18-30 years, this presentation is Melissa's uncensored and truthful insight into the journey of the life of a young CEO. From the lows to the highs, Melissa shares the battles and obstacles she overcame to build the Top Blokes Foundation. From not being taken seriously, to the ongoing need to demystify Gen Y stereotypes, Melissa will motivate the emerging leaders to never be distracted from their true mission: becoming leaders today, not tomorrow. This presentation is best suited for students at universities, high schools and youth leadership conferences.

LIFE IS LIKE A CHEESEBURGER

A topic close to Melissa's heart, this highly interactive presentation is Melissa's signature high school keynote. Using the ingredients of a cheeseburger to describe situations that young people will face in their teenage lives, Melissa challenges the audience of 12-16 year olds to build self-awareness, aspirations for the future and take their first steps to setting and achieving their goals. This presentation is specially crafted to keep the attention and engagement of the audience for a minimum of 45 minutes. Please note, non-lovers of cheeseburgers may find this presentation disturbing.



WORKSHOP TOPICS

Melissa has over 10 years of facilitation and workshop experience. Her style of using humour, multimedia and interactive activities during her workshops ensure that participants are reaching the required outcomes. She has extensive experience presenting half day, full day and 2-day workshops to high school students, university students and workplaces.

BUILDING AN EFFECTIVE ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY FOR YOUNG MEN

This interactive workshop will offer practical steps for attendees to develop a unique strategy to engage at-risk and disadvantaged young males within their communities. This workshop will also help attendees to understand the challenges that young males face in health, education and general community setting. Melissa will ensure that this workshop is customised to directly address the real-time barriers that stand in the way of service providers and parents with their young men.



7 STEPS TO BECOMING YOUNG LEADERS TODAY

This workshop is best suited for high school and university students who are aspiring leaders or in a first-time leadership role. Incorporating 7 of the most effective steps Melissa used in her journey to becoming a leader, this workshop will give participants 7 practical strategies to increase their leadership capacity and make an immediate impact. Participants can be expected to leave with an action plan ready to implement.

THE REALITIES OF BEING A YOUTH CHANGE-AGENT

Being a young leader has its perks, but definitely has its challenges. And Melissa has experienced enough challenges to know how hard leadership is. This workshop is best suited for aspiring youth leaders who already have experience in leadership but want to take it to the next level. Melissa will assist participants to understand their own leadership journeys, their desired destinations and develop strategies to overcome the challenges that stand in the way.

PUBLIC SPEAKING FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Public speaking. Yuck. But public speaking is also an essential skill in communicating your vision and message to others. Having now spoken to over 7,000 across her speaking career, Melissa has dedicated hours to building her confidence and speaking skills. In this highly interactive workshop, Melissa will help young people build confidence, design daring and bold presentations as well as give practical tips to becoming a confident and memorable speaker.

WHAT THEY'RE SAYING ABOUT MELISSA



“Melissa is a regular speaker at our 2-day leadership camp for 14-17 year olds. She has a great personality that the students readily warm to. Her sessions are filled with laughter and fun. Her topic "My Life is Like a Cheeseburger" is far from trivial and challenges the students to consider the role of themselves and those around them. We receive a lot of comments from parents after the camp which refer directly to Melissa's presentation. Additionally, the students rating of Melissa on a feedback sheet is consistently 10 out of 10.

I am extremely pleased and honoured that she finds the time to join us.”

Brian – Camp Coordinator – RYPEN

“After attending a Top Blokes Foundation seminar on increasing young people's leadership capacity in modern Australia, I now feel empowered to communicate better with my young male students and help them to develop positive attitudes and behaviours that give them the best chance at success in all areas of their lives.”

Paul, Teacher

“Young, vibrant, captivating and bold. Melissa has your complete attention from start to finish and will even have you asking for an encore. You will never forget her - get ready to be challenged.”

Sana, Hays Recruitment

“Melissa is a truly inspirational speaker. Her integrity and passion shines through when she speaks, and her story stays with you long after she has finished. After hearing Melissa speak, I was compelled to keep working hard in my life.”

Sally, Human and Hope Association

“Melissa is a one of the most powerful presenters I've ever seen. Her story shows that being young is not an excuse. I'm now more focused on what I want to achieve in life.”

Emma, Student, University of NSW

“I've always wanted to make a difference, but never did anything about it. Melissa showed us how to achieve our life goals from that moment. It was a turning point for me.”

Chris, Student, University of Wollongong

“Melissa's talks are engaging from the minute you walk in until you leave. She's not afraid to challenge your thoughts and show you how to live a purposeful life.”

Carly, Student Leadership Programs Coordinator



PAST CLIENTS

Melissa presents to businesses with young male clients or employees as well as parents, educators and aspiring young leaders. Melissa has spoken to thousands of people across Australia and is passionate about young men's health. If you have an audience where Melissa can share her message, please contact her.

SOME OF THE MANY CLIENTS PRESENTED FOR



MELISSA HAS BEEN FEATURED IN



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT SHOULD I CONSIDER BEFORE BOOKING?

To ensure we can commit to meeting your event needs, please consider the following key issues:

- Objectives and outcomes of having Melissa present
- What you want the audience to feel as a result of the presentation
- Length of presentation required
- Date and time that you require Melissa
- Approximate size of audience
- Multimedia available
- Your proximity to Sydney, NSW and the travel requirements
- Other presenters at your event
- Are there any companion events that you would like Melissa to attend e.g. a conference dinner?

HOW SOON MUST I BOOK LEADING UP TO OUR EVENT?

A minimum of four weeks is required to ensure that Melissa's presentation is as relevant and meaningful as possible. Inside the four weeks, she may still be able to commit to the event, however there may be less flexibility in developing a customised presentation for your audience. This can be discussed in your initial consultation with Melissa.

WHAT IS THE FEE TO HAVE MELISSA SPEAK?

100% of fees generated from speaking engagements are donated directly to the Top Blokes Foundation. Fees vary depending on the speaking requirements including length of engagement, style of delivery (speech or workshop) and geographic location of the event. For a customised quote, please contact Top Blokes Foundation.

WHERE TO FROM HERE?

Please contact the Top Blokes Foundation office to organise an initial consultation with Melissa, who will discuss your event needs. This is essential to enable Melissa to create a lasting impact on your audience.



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