

Refugee Week 2023

Heba Jabbori's story



Support Worker Coordinator

My name is Heba Jabbori and I am a proud refugee from Iraq. I was born in the early 80s during the war that ravaged my country. I lived through the horrors of the 80s war and later the gulf war in the 90s. I witnessed violence, death, and destruction every day. I lost my mother and grandmother in a vehicle incident that changed my life forever.

In 1995, I fled the war torn country with my family to Jordan, where we lived as refugees for two years. We faced many challenges and hardships, but we never gave up hope. We applied for resettlement to Australia and were lucky to be accepted.

We arrived in Queensland in 1997 and moved to NSW in 1999. It was not easy to start a new life in a new country, but we were grateful for the opportunity and the freedom. We faced challenges, but we also found support, friendship, and community.

I worked hard to adapt to the Australian culture and society. I worked in various industries and gained a lot of knowledge and experience. I always wanted to learn more and improve myself. I worked in the hospitality industry for most of my career life, then moved to hairdressing to suit my life as a mother of three. I ran my own hairdressing business for a while.

In my mid 30s, I decided to go back to studies. It was very challenging to restart again, but I proved to myself and my kids that it can be done. I gained a diploma in interpreting and later community services.

I started off with CORE Community Services as a student placement. Simon and Shama saw something in me and believed I can give to CORE. They took care of me and mentored me. I took care of parents next clients at Fairfield and from there on moved to ADC (Aged & Disability Care).

I am now working at CORE as a Support Worker Coordinator for ADC. I love my job and I feel like I am giving back to the community that welcomed me and supported me.

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