

# Refugee Week 2023

## Zayd Naeem's Story



Settlement Worker & Employment Officer

Iraq was a place of constant fear for my family, with bombs exploding every day. But in 2005, we made the courageous decision to leave everything behind. After spending two years in Jordan, we found refuge and hope in Australia on August 29th, 2007. The freedom and security to express myself without fear were like a breath of fresh air, and the warm welcome from this country was truly heartwarming.

My life took a transformative turn in 2014 when I started volunteering for CORE Community Services. This organisation became my platform for personal growth, allowing me to develop my skills and ultimately join their team in 2015 as an intake officer for multicultural communities. The unwavering support from the community and government has been a lifeline, granting me opportunities to pursue education in high school and TAFE, nurturing my passions and dreams.

Today, as an Iraqi and Arabic settlement worker and employment officer, I have the privilege of supporting newly arrived individuals on their settlement and employment journeys. Giving back to the community that has given me so much fills my heart with fulfillment. Resolving families' issues and helping them achieve their goals brings me immense joy. The positive feedback from clients reassures me that I am making a meaningful difference, paying forward the kindness and support that was once extended to me.

I am forever grateful to Australia and CORE Community Services for the opportunities, given me the tools and platform to thrive, and I am committed to making a lasting impact in the lives of others, just as they have done for me.

#FreedomwithCORE

