

“Beautiful and Strange” speech by Zahra

Good Morning

My name is Zahra and I come from the land of the two rivers “IRAQ”

I am a mother of seven children who live all around the world. We had no choice but to leave Iraq in the late 70s. I lived in many countries since including Lebanon, England and Spain and finally Australia

I came to Australia 14 years ago and have made many friends here

My friends are of all ages, from different countries, religions and cultures and it seems like our differences brought us together.

I know so many people in Campbelltown, I am always saying hello to people when I am walking in Queen Street or shopping at the mall.

It is like I started a new life when I came in Campbelltown and I love it here

I have been involved with MDSI’s groups and activities not long after I came to Australia. Being part of the Art group and other groups gives me confidence and belief in myself. I am the same woman who lived, suffered and endured much but is still determined to continue living and enjoying life. Age will not stop me

One of my works is a paper Mache bird I made using Iraqi newspapers. Making this bird took me back home, it brought back beautiful memories and reminded me of the wonderful life we had as well as its ups and downs

I am the bird that continues to fly

Thank you to MDSI, to the women in the Art group, to Fida, Layla and Sana and to Campbelltown Arts centre for giving me this opportunity to be a part of something that I love and which gives my life so much meaning.