

Good morning

My name is Wafaa Hamadi and I came from Iraq as a refugee 5 years ago

Iraq is a beautiful country and we had a good, peaceful and productive life until 2003 when we started to fear for our lives and the lives of our loved ones because of the war and the bad political situation

At that time, my husband and brothers were threatened by other groups, who would have killed them which forced us to go to Syria hoping for a better life.

Not long after, the war started in Syria and the fear and worry started again.

We decided to come to Australia because we have family here. We were able to apply for a refugee visa and the whole family (my parents, brothers and their families and my husband) came to Australia in 2014

We are lucky that we live near each other; we are very close to each other and meet all the time. I love that we are always together and that the children are happy.

I studied English at NAVITAS together with other members of my family when we first came; I was also a carer for my mother and now I am a carer for my father at the moment.

My husband started a "Family day care" business and I was able to help him establish the business.

Now I work with ATSO, looking after disabled children on their way to and from school. I got my "P" license last month and life seems to be getting better.

I did not have the same opportunities in Iraq, it would have been very difficult for me to study, work and to get my driver's license.

I still follow what is happening in Iraq and worry about the relatives that we left behind. I also worry if ever my brothers or other members of the family decide to go back to Iraq.

Although life is much better here than it was in Iraq, I don't always feel settled. I always worry about what will happen next. We are still waiting to get our Australian citizenship although we have applied for it a while back. I feel that until we get the citizenship life is not complete. We want to travel, to go and see our extended family and we cannot do that without our Australian passport.

The family has been through a lot of difficult situation in Iraq. Some members of the family were kidnapped, some shot, others were jailed and killed. We always worried about the children when they went to school because of bombs and kidnappings.

We have lost so much, but we are survivors and we are living our lives the way we want to. I am not afraid of leaving home, visiting friends, working and doing the things that I like doing.