



From Afghanistan to Nauru to Australia

It's not easy for refugees adjusting to a new life in Australia according to Mohammad Ali Baqiri who fled Afghanistan as a ten year old unaccompanied minor in 2001.

After spending nearly three years in the Nauru Detention Centre, Mohammad came to Australia where a new set of challenges awaited.

"Starting a whole new life from scratch is never easy and brings stress, as it is uncertain and unfamiliar," said Mohammad.

"From my own personal experience common issues include language, adjusting to the new culture and tradition, different way of life, the uncertainty of being safe and possibly being deported back to our home countries," he added.

Mohammad is in his final year at Victoria University completing a double degree in Law and Business. He volunteers in his spare time to raise awareness for refugees.

"I advise refugees and new migrants to keep their hopes alive and never give up. What they are experiencing is challenging and I would inform them that there are people on the outside standing up for them and fighting the injustice occurring to ensure they receive their right to freedom, protection and education.

Mohammad Ali Baqiri is one of nine speakers at **GriefLine's Migrant Forum: Migration – Then & Now**. It provides an opportunity for first, second and third generation Australians to explore common migrant themes and issues which are often unacknowledged. They help empower and support migrants connect to our broader multicultural Australian society.

Event details

GriefLine's Migrant Forum: Migration – Then & Now

Date: Saturday 17 October

Time: 10am – 2:30pm

Venue: Level 1, 479 Warrigal Road, Moorabbin

Cost: \$40 for general public, \$20 for volunteers & students

Other: Refreshments and lunch provided

Registration: 9935 7444 or www.facebook.com/grieflineservices

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