

Parents Next Newsletter



Djerriwarrh

Community & Education Services

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Edition 9 - December 2020

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"I feel more confident. I am capable of doing things on my own"

Huria - ParentsNext participant

Huria belongs to a Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) community who was referred to Djerriwarrh Community & Education Services ParentsNext program in September 2018.

Huria did not have any prior knowledge of ParentsNext program so was not sure what to expect and how that referral could be helpful for her as she had already been attending the SEE classes before being referred to the program.

Huria has been in a very complicated family situation and did not have any support from her family or friends and had no support from her husband either.

Huria is a mother of three children and is a full-time carer of two young children. Huria had also been dealing with legal family matters which had adversely affected her family, her mental health and was too stressed to manage it all on her own with no support from her family.

Upon meeting her ParentsNext consultant, Anita, Huria felt she was made to feel welcome and felt she could now get the right kind of support that she needed to get through her tough situation.

Huria opened up to Anita and discussed all that was affecting her and her children. Anita worked with Huria to tailor a plan to overcome the challenges and to achieve her goal of having a meaningful and successful employment.

Following the career and goals

assessment, Huria and Anita came to the conclusion that working in aged care was in fact what was best suited for her.

First, Anita wanted to ensure that Huria's two young children were getting the most from the services available so she helped both kids get enrolled into Homework Club and a Holiday Program to help them be on track with their educational goals.



Huria's children greatly benefited from these programs. Huria said to her consultant

"Homework club was a saviour to my children"

Next step was to ensure that Huria stayed on track with her SEE classes so that she could continue to improve her skills to pave way for her to enroll in Certificate III in Individual Support. This would help Huria achieve her goal of being an aged care worker and to also secure long term paid employment.

Upon completion of her SEE course, Anita helped Huria enroll in Certificate III in

In This Edition

- **Huria is confident, capable and smart**
- **Manager's message**

Djerriwarrh's ParentsNext site locations

- ◆ Melton
- ◆ Sunshine
- ◆ St Albans
- ◆ Werribee
- ◆ Deer Park
- ◆ Footscray
- ◆ Melton South
- ◆ Bacchus Marsh
- ◆ Taylors Hill/Hillside
- ◆ Laverton
- ◆ Watergardens (outreach)

Since 23 November 2020, many of our participants have opted-in for face-to-face appointments.



Individual Support with Migrant Resource Centre starting in June 2019 and also English as a Second Language (ESL) so that she could continue to improve her English skills while completing Cert III.

Anita helped Huria connect with local community members, parents and people from her own community to be able to socialise, make friends and develop more self confidence. Huria told us

"My consultant helped me with more than study, activities and support for my children, she helped with what there is in my neighbourhood and helped me make friends"

During the course of her training, Huria faced a number of family and personal challenges which she worked through with the regular support and encouragement from her consultant and continued with her Certificate III and ESL.

In January 2020, Huria got work placement at Cumberland Manor and in April 2020, despite the pandemic, lockdowns, limited English language skills and not being tech savvy, Huria did not give up and continued her studies online and kept her determination strong to complete what

she had started.

In June 2020 Huria successfully completed her Certificate III and also ESL soon after.

In December 2020, Huria found her perfect job as an aged care worker and is now working part-time while also caring for her children. Huria said

"I feel more confident and capable of doing things on my own. I realise I am smart".

Huria has come a long way in the last two years. It takes a very strong willed person to go through what she has been through to achieve what she has.

Huria is determined to provide the best and a secure future for her kids and to be a role model and she is successfully trying to set an example for them that anything is possible if you set your mind to it.

Huria also wants other parents to know that there is support available and she said about the ParentsNext program; **"Make the most of it".**

We are proud of Huria's achievements and wish her the very best of luck in her new job

A Message From Our ParentsNext Manager

Dear Colleagues

After months of some of the toughest COVID-19 restrictions and lockdowns seen anywhere in the world, it has been very pleasing to see Victoria's continued recovery from the impacts of this virus.

Outside of a few active cases from recent overseas arrivals in hotels, it has now been 48 straight days of zero new coronavirus cases in Victoria with the last case being reported on October 30. Outside of hotel quarantine, Victoria continues to remain COVID-free.

This amazing turnaround in Victoria's battle with COVID-19 does not lessen the ongoing risk and seriousness of this virus but it does mean that we can, with comprehensive COVID-Safe Plans in place, continue to move forward as per the latest advice of government and health experts.

I am very pleased to report that after eight months of working remotely, our ParentsNext team have commenced a return back to some of their workplaces and seeing their opt-in participants face-to-face from 23rd November.

We are looking forward to completing this phase-in to our workplaces across all eleven of our ParentsNext sites and servicing more and more of our participants face-to-face when we return back to work from the end-of-year holiday period.

The ParentsNext team will be on leave from Christmas Day 2020 until Friday 1st January and re-open for business on Monday 4th January.

This year has been tough, challenging and heartbreaking for so many people around the world. For many parts of the world, COVID-19 continues to wreak havoc and reminds all of us about not letting our guards down against this virus.

For the 2020 festive and holiday season, our ParentsNext team would like to extend a special wish to all our participants, our community and business stakeholders and especially to anyone whose health was impacted, who lost their job, or who lost a loved one; our thoughts and prayers go out to you and we wish you every good wish for Christmas and the New Year.

We hope that 2021 brings more and more good news to everyone around the world and that we continue to win the battle against COVID-19.

Stay safe, enjoy the holiday season and I look forward to providing you with further monthly updates in 2021.

Yours sincerely,

Gengiz Soy Turk

