

## Fatuma's story . . .

Fatuma Muhudin was born in Somalia and came to Australia in 2004 from Uganda as a refugee. A single mother to two children, she holds down three jobs and is an inspiration to those who are lucky to work with her.

She was a chef in Kenya for five years, has studied hospitality in Australia and now works in the kitchen at Sky City Darwin to keep her cooking skills up to date. Fatuma also takes on the roles of interpreter for the Somali and Swahili languages and as a Bilingual Officer at Anula Primary School.

Fatuma faced many challenges when she arrived in Australia. She had difficulty understanding the job application process as it was so different from the African way, and in her first job as a cleaner she struggled to understand the accent and speed of her employer's speech.

Accessing childcare was difficult, and as she didn't have transport she would have to leave home very early to get her children to childcare and take the bus to work. Sometimes this didn't work out as planned though and she would have to take an expensive taxi to work so that she wouldn't be late.

Fatuma practices speaking with an Australian accent and believes that although language is one of the biggest barriers to employment she believes you can learn faster on the job than spending years in the classroom. "There are many things we can learn from each other. Working together we can achieve a lot."



**Fatuma Muhudin**  
**Bilingual Officer**  
**Anula Primary School**

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