

Mahongo's story . . .

Mahongo Fumbelo is a trainer and assessor with Myriad Group Training. Mahongo tells her story of working with refugees and migrants.

“One of my privileges is to facilitate a job-ready program for refugees and migrants,” Mahongo says.

Each session with a new group is always an enriching journey of discovery for me as each participant gets to present me with their vast array of unique talents and skill that are never obvious at face value. Their manifestations are never displayed in top level English language skills or clichéd resumes, but they leave me with no shadow of doubt that this cohort has a great deal to offer to the Australian workforce.

One of my best experiences was with a participant named Joseph during a field visit at a host employer's venue. At the end of the tour, our host offered to make us a cup of tea/coffee. As the host got behind the bar to start the brew, Joseph jumped to the occasion and offered to help. In no time I nervously watched Joseph approach a high tech gigantic coffee machine. With my limited coffee making skills, I would never dare to go near this machine that Joseph was about to provoke.

Within five minutes, Joseph was serving us well-presented flat whites and courteously asking us what else we desired at our beck and call. As an ardent trainer, I am always on the look out of how my trainees present themselves to a prospective employer. Joseph had just conducted his own interview which only left the host to remark, “My goodness Mahongo, this bloke would be a good barista. I would like to help this guy improve on his skills and work with us here, I am impressed”.

Joseph, whom I thought was the most introverted participant, had just excelled at this informal job interview. If the host had asked Joseph to tell him about his skills, Joseph would have struggled to find the desired *5.5 English Language Skills* to convince the host. But with this opportunity Joseph had used his hands and attitude to let the host know that he has something to offer.



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