

## Fantanesh Abera



Fantanesh Abera came to Hobart four years ago as a refugee from Sudan. She met her Eritrean husband while in the camp and they now have three children.

“When I came to Tasmania I didn’t speak one word of English but I learned quickly through the Tasmanian Polytechnic and I now have two jobs.

“My husband and I have passed our drivers licences and we have two cars and we no longer need any help from Centrelink.

“We have done really well and come a long way since we arrived in Tasmania in 2007,” said Fantanesh.

Fantanesh studies English language skills through the Migrant Education program of the Tasmanian Polytechnic.

“When I could speak and understand English enough I was accepted in the Work It Out course also through the Migrant Education program.

Work It Out is a course for migrants who are looking for work. The course includes practicing job interview techniques and the students get to learn more about Workplace English and become familiar with Australian workplace culture and practices.

This Migrant Profiles initiative is supported by Skills Tasmania to tell employers about the commitment, enthusiasm and skills that many migrants can offer to the workplace.

*“Work It Out” is a Migrant Education work preparation program funded by the Australian Government Department of Immigration and Citizenship through the Adult Migrant English Program.*

“Before I was married I worked in my family’s small hotel and restaurant in my country.

“My work placement was at the Mercure Hotel in Hobart as a housekeeper. The work placement was arranged through the Work It Out program and gave me an opportunity to experience hospitality work in Australia.

“As well as the hands on skills I also gained some referees for future job interviews.

“I liked housekeeping and found that I could work really hard and really fast cleaning the rooms, said Fantanesh.

When Fantanesh completed the Work It Out course she continued studying English and the Migrant Education Vocational Counsellor assisted Fantanesh to apply for a job as a housekeeper at the Riverfront Motel at Berridale.

“I was successful in my application and have worked there for about 18 months.

“In winter time, housekeeping work slows down so I have recently started a second job working as a cleaner for Spotlight Cleaning.

“I work in the early hours of the morning, cleaning large offices, shops and banks and then I go to my housekeeping job afterwards,” said Fantanesh.

English language skills are very important to Fantanesh so she continues to study English in the evenings.

“I know how important it is to have good English speaking skills.”

Fantanesh has a lot of long term goals but for the moment her current jobs are steps to her pathway to her future.

“I have found that working has changed the lives of not only me but my whole family. I feel really proud and good about myself, and I am fitter and healthier.

“Everyone I work with has been so helpful and so nice to me and I like having new friends and contacts.

“I try to learn things really fast and always ask if I don’t know how to do something. I also make sure I am reliable and hardworking so that I don’t disappoint my employers.

I am really grateful for the opportunities I have had and to the people who have helped me,” said Fantanesh.

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