

Media Release

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From refugee to uni degree: A father and son inspire each other

Mohammad Ghaznawi came to Australia 15 years ago in pursuit of a better life for himself and his family.

This week he saw his dream more than realised when he received his Diploma in Community Services at the same ceremony, where his son who he inspired to study, was recognised as TAFE Queensland Brisbane Alumnus of the year.

After spending a year in a detention centre, Mohammad came to TAFE Queensland Brisbane to study English, using his language skills to work as a tiler in Queensland and New South Wales before back problems forced him out of the industry.

At a career cross road, Mohammad returned to TAFE Queensland Brisbane in 2012 and is now about to graduate with a Diploma of Community Studies and embark on a two-year degree in social work at university.

Five years after his arrival his son Mohammad Rezahi arrived in Australia as a 19 years old with dreams of becoming a doctor. With no formal schooling behind him initially he came up against a few brick walls.

Inspired by his father's example he enrolled in the Adult Tertiary Preparation course at TAFE Queensland Brisbane, which enabled him to sit the UMAT exam and go on to study medicine.

Fast forward to 2014 and he has successfully completed his medical degree at the University of Queensland and is currently working as a doctor at the Princess Alexandra Hospital.

Both father and son attended a TAFE Queensland Brisbane graduation ceremony yesterday, where hundreds of students have officially received their certificate, diploma or advanced diploma qualifications.

Image available on request.

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