



I AM NO LONGER A REFUGEE.
I AM A TERRITORIAN

JOURNEY TO AUSTRALIA

H O M E



All was well and peaceful

Like everyone, we were living in a land we knew well. With the people we love. Life went on as usual and we felt safe and secure at home.

Until wars began

Until one day unrest started. Many of our people were persecuted because of their religious beliefs, ethnicity, social memberships and political opinions. Then it grew so big that wars started and we lived in fear for our lives.



Then we were lost and had no country

At first we sought refuge in parts of our own country. We moved about seeking safety in nearby towns, schools and even internal camps.

We were Internally Displaced people.



While our plea for safety was considered

While we were in the country of asylum as refugees, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) determined whether we had a well-founded fear of persecution if we went back to our original country. When we met the UNHCR's criteria, we were then referred for acceptance by a resettlement country, like Australia.



Until our request was processed

Finally, we received the long awaited news that we had been accepted by Australia. We then had to go through further screenings: security, health, character and background checks. We also participated in the Australian Cultural Orientation Program to prepare us for life in Australia.



Then we waited some more

We then had to wait further while our situation was being considered by the resettlement country. This can take years.



Travel arrangements were made for us to go to the country that accepted us

The International Office of Migration (IOM) arranged our travel from the country where we were refugees to Australia. This included giving us a Humanitarian Entrant Visa to arrive in Australia as Permanent Residents.

Meanwhile, in Australia, Melaleuca Australia was informed by the Australian Government of our impending arrival and started preparing to welcome us.



Eventually we arrived in Australia, where all is well and peaceful again

We arrived in Australia on a Humanitarian Entrant Visa. Melaleuca Australia met us at the airport, recognised us and welcomed us proudly. We were supported to get home safely as permanent residents and life began again in a new part of the world.

For the first 18 months, Melaleuca Australia supported us intensively to settle in Australia and remained available to support us for several years after that.

This is how I came to be here. Home.



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Melaleuca AUSTRALIA —

melaleuca.org.au

(08) 8985 3311

Melaleuca Australia

admin@melaleuca.org.au