

Inspirational Stories: Stories of raising children by parents from refugee backgrounds in Australia



This project was developed by Queensland Program of Assistance to Survivors of Torture and Trauma (QPASTT) with funding from Brisbane City Council.



QPASTT

The 'Inspirational Stories' package has been designed to assist newly arrived parents from refugees backgrounds who would like to hear stories from other parents in their own language, about what they have experienced whilst raising children in Australia. The following nine transcripts are written in English and accompany the 'Inspirational Stories' CD with stories recorded in English, Kirundi, Dari, Karen and Arabic.

It was developed to be used with individual families or in group workshops, to assist newly arrived families in their settlement. It is hoped that by listening to the stories of others about their struggles, inspirations and ideas, parents can feel comfortable to share their own stories and discuss issues that are affecting them. It is hoped that the stories will encourage parents to learn from each other and feel more confident about being a parent in Australia.

Many thanks to the participants for providing their inspirational stories to develop this CD.

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**‘Inspirational Stories CD: Stories of raising children in
Australia from parents from refugee backgrounds in
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1. A story from a father from Afghanistan (in English)

1. What is your country of origin? And how long have you been in Australia?

I am from Afghanistan and I have been in Australia for 10 years. I have 5 children aged between 10 and 22 years.

2. What did you liked most during your settlement?

I arrived here by myself and spent 5 years before my family arrived to join me. They have been here now for 5 years. The good experience that I had was the support and help I received from some agencies which was very different to the attitude of the government at the time. We got in touch with many people who became our friends and helped us with housing and offered other practical support.

When my family arrived, everything was new to them and they faced some problems but the good thing was that they adjusted to the country so quickly. The children picked up the language so quickly. For example, when my youngest child enrolled at school she cried the whole day and didn't want her mother to leave her. This continued for about a week and her mother sat outside the class to be there with her. She felt like everybody was laughing at her and talking about her, because she didn't know what they were saying. But, after a few months she became so good at English and at school. And these days when I speak English she laughs at me and says "Dad, you are not speaking English" because of my accent!

3. What are your experiences of raising children in Australia?

Raising children in Australia is more difficult than back home. Because back home, children are growing according to the SAME cultural norms and values. The society, is a closed society, and is structured in a particular way which forces everyone to adapt to its social and cultural norms and values. But Australia is an open society. Here, the children are in daily contact with people from different countries and different cultures and very easily can lose their culture of origin and adopt a new culture which might be very unfamiliar and sometimes shocking to their parents. This is why raising children for parents in Australia is more difficult then back home and requires much more efforts and attention, understanding and flexibility.

Also another problem for parents is the language problem; because their children learn English so well and forget their original language, so, gradually a language gap between parents and children get bigger and bigger and eventually create problem of communication between them and you know the problem of communication leads to many other problems. To overcome this problem we established a language school to teach our children their native language and this is helpful. It is amazing to see how quickly the children adapt to the country and learn the language.

4. What worked well?

Having a close, loving and trusting relationship with your children

Having a good channel of communication with them

Also, to be flexible with them and with disciplining them

Back home we had a very rigid way of disciplining children and that one is not working here

If you have a close relationship with them and allow time for each one of them to talk about what they are interested in, they trust you and turn to you when they need it. This is one of the ways to keep children and parents close to each other.

For example, back home we have a saying that says “If you don’t apply your hand to discipline your child, then some day you will be forced to apply this hand to slam it into your face”. In Dari we say “...”. You know, back home, when people are mourning, they beat their chest and face with their hands, so this means if you don’t discipline your children in a physical way, then tomorrow your children may do something so bad that will make you hit yourself as a way of showing your remorse and sorrow. This way of disciplining children is not working here, simply you can do that to your child here, and it’s against the law.

Also back home, the children mainly adopt the cultural norms and values of their parents. Here the children are in contact with many different cultures and can easily adopt a new culture. This is a main issue for our community. If people want to bring up their children in the original rigid way, it doesn’t work. We need to be flexible and allow our children to pick up the good things from this society and also keep the good values of our previous culture. Everything is not all good or all bad in our culture. This is true about the Australian culture as well. Every culture has bad things and good things. Parents need to help their children to become truly a bi-cultural person to keep good aspects and values from their old culture and also pick up positive aspects and values from the new.

5. What are your dreams?

As I mentioned earlier, my dream for my children is for them to really become bi-cultural. I hope they will not be so rigid that they keep all aspects of one culture and forget or deny good aspects of another one. My dream is that they will be able to recognise that there are some very good things in their culture of origin and also very good things in Australian culture and to live in social and psychological harmony with this multicultural society.

6. If you are to provide some advice to newly arrived families/parents regarding raising children in Australia, what would you say?

From my own experience, what I would say is to be flexible... To not expect your children to act the same as they used to act in their home countries. They are in a new situation, a new country where everything is different from the country of origin, so the parents need to acknowledge that and respect that. And parents need to expect that their children will pick up some things from this culture and allow their children to do this. The other thing is for parents to have good communication to build a trusting relationship with their children. Then you can be the person that they turn to when they are facing problems. They may face many problems and may be confused about their identity and this is a kind of struggle. So as a parent it is important to talk about these issues with them, try to understand them and be one of the sources of support for their children.

2. A father from Afghanistan (in Dari)

See Transcript 1

3. A story from a mother from Sudan (in Arabic)

1. What is your country of origin and how long have you been in Australia?

I am originally from Sudan and I have been in Australia for 5 years. I have 5 children aged between 9 and 22.

2. What did you like most during your settlement?

I liked seeing my family around me which hadn't been the case before I came to Australia.

I liked and appreciated the people who were very welcoming and warm and meeting different people and new friends and learning new things, especially technology

I liked the government of Australia who put together resources to increase the capacity of refugees and migrants on arrival and through settlement

I liked and appreciate the service providers, their time, efforts and expertise that pass on to the refugees and people in need

I liked the churches that stood out with their love and care

I liked the main stream- communities for being patient with multiculturalism

I liked the empowerment that I received through my employment

I liked the education system that is free especially from prep to high school

I liked driving which has been for the first time in my life

3. What are your experiences of raising children in Australia?

I thought I would struggle with raising my family in Australia, being a single mother, but it turned out not as scary as I thought. Anyways, there are some similarities in some things and there is huge difference in some of the approaches, e.g. in Australia when a child does something wrong, parents talk about disciplining a child, giving the child options to choose from, back home parents talk about punishing the child for their mistakes by hitting them, even if it left a mark or scars. It doesn't matter to even deny them a meal. All these are done without bad intention, just to let the child know that they are wrong and should not repeat that mistake.

In Australia, children are the parent's responsibility but back home children are the responsibility of the community. People trust that any older person in the community has the right to correct or discipline a child when they go wrong. Back home lots of grandparents and Aunts offer support to the family, especially with babysitting but here most parents struggle with child care payments. In Australia, at school, children are told to look teachers in the eye while talking to them, while back home, my children have been trained to listen and not look into the eye of adults – it is considered disrespectful to have eye contact.

4. What worked well?

In Australia, I received support from different services and attended lots of training, information sessions, education and gained different skills and knowledge that helped me to deal with every day challenges. With parenting and through those trainings I attended, my children and I managed to set rules that guided the whole family. We also printed out values that we all agreed upon and we keep referring to. I encouraged my kids to develop a roster which has every family member's name and what work they do.

I trained myself to practice alternative discipline with my family such as talking in low tone of voice or when calm, avoided talking to them when upset.... Also listening and respecting their opinion... explaining things clearly to them instead of punishing them as I used to do.

If there is a new idea that I would like to introduce to the family, I explain it, hear their view point and agree on what suits everyone in the family
I also realised that having time with my kids is very helpful, e.g. I walk with them to the park, play basket ball together, compete in running them, and so on
I cook for my kids what they like most and introduce new food to them

5. What did not work well?

When I see our young people don't listen to their parents or care takers, especially when they have bad company. For example, some of my family members don't want to continue with studies or set good goal for their future. Also, when a family member gets sick, and when you don't have health care card, every step becomes expensive, and some daily activities sometimes turn up difficult. When my car breaks down, fixing it becomes expensive as I will not understand if I am cheated or not. Discrimination is another issue that I normally face. The child protection system did not work well with some of my friends; this made me get concerned, especially when it involved removal of children from their parent's care. With all these experiences, I learned to always focus on the positive

6. What are your dreams?

My dreams would be to raise up children who;

- Would be able to make good decision for their lives and enjoy their life
- Have confidence to know how to come out of problems that they got into
- Can overcome bad decisions and peer group pressure
- Be able and willing to provide support to people in need
- Do the right thing
- Respect people and accept them the way they are, and much much more

7. If you are to provide some advice to newly arrived families/ parents regarding raising children in Australia, what would you say?

- Be open and ready to learn new things
- Get to understand the system, rules, and basic laws, so the law will not judge you
- Try to adjust to the new challenges that face you every day
- Have your family values very clear and precise, and let the family know about your values
- Try to set some rules together with your family that will guide all of you
- Know where your children are, especially when they begin to talk about hanging out with friends and "sleep over's"
- If you have school aged children, visit their school and find time to participate at the school activities, such as school festivals, or any activity that parents could help with (you can ask the school, and they will let you know)
- Even if you have language barriers, show the school that you can do practical things. This will help you to know many other things that they require, which your child sometimes forgets to let you know
- Listen attentively to your children, discuss new ideas, respect their opinion even though you disagree with their opinion
- Speak in a low tone of voice and be a role model to them
- Help to develop your family's self esteem

- Develop a net work with your community, friends, support group, neighbours, your church, services providers, and any other net work that would be helpful to your family

4. A story from a mother from Former Yugoslavia (in English)

1. What is your country of origin? And how long have you been in Australia?

I'm from Former Yugoslavia and I have been in Brisbane for almost 12 years.

2. What did you liked most during your settlement?

What I really liked is seeing new things and learning about new ways of life and how different people do things differently... And just exploring aswell..meeting different people with different life stories. I was excited about learning new things that I had not had the opportunity to learn about. I also liked the fact that I was welcomed in this country and all the settlement services that got involved – that was a huge help. And having my family around was very good...I came with my parents and brother. I went around every day and then always knew that I had my family at home so we could talk about the day each evening and I liked that.

3. What are your experiences of raising children in Australia?

My experience of raising children in Australia is that it is very different to the way that parents have raised children in my country of origin. People where I am from have a lot of support from their extended family...grandparents play a large role in helping to raise children. I was fortunate to have my parents involved in helping to raise my kids but many families here don't have that and struggle. For example, you wonder if you should enrol your children in child care particularly when the children don't speak English and you wonder if they will be comfortable when teachers speak English. ..You wonder if you want your children to be exposed to English language all the time and they might lose their first language. That is very important for a lot of people who come from overseas...they would love their children to pick up English very quickly but also be able to speak their own language. Sometimes there is no choice if the parents work, then they will have to go to child care.

My kids were fortunate to have grandparents around so they could learn some of the values and language but I also wanted them to attend child care to learn because that gave them the opportunity to mix with other children.

4. What worked well?

When I look back when my children were little I think routine helped a lot and getting support and advice from other people. I asked my Mum and other friends from where I am from and asked them what they used to do. I quite liked what they did so I did that and adapted it but then I also like what they do here so I kind of incorporated both ways from back home and from here.

So for me routine was helpful...For example, bathing the children at the same time every night means the kids knew what to expect every night. Even though the kids don't know the clock, but they kind of knew that after dinner would be bath and then bed and I think that helped them to settle better.

5. What didn't work well?

A lot of things worked well. It is always a bit difficult when the kids were not well. That disturbs routine and that affects eating and sleeping..so I must be fortunate because most things worked well..having family around,, supportive partner and the only thing I can think is that when the kids are not well ..for example my son broke his leg and he was very unhappy and i knew that that would pass and he would get better so I tried to focus on the positives.

6. What are your dreams?

My dreams about the future would be about raising confident children and ones that are able to make good decisions for themselves. I don't think that wishing my kids getting rich or going to university will give them happiness. It is more about them being able to make good decisions and enjoy their life... And if they make mistakes that they will be able to deal with it and confident enough to know how to overcome bad decisions and be able to move on. And to be caring as well and I certainly don't expect them to look after me when I get older as that wasn't why I had children in the first place. But I do expect to be respected by my children and that they would respect other people and respect others and be considerate to others.

7. If you are to provide some advice to newly arrived families/parents regarding raising children in Australia, what would you say?

To not abandon their own culture but to know their own culture and stick to some stuff that they know worked well for their own families. But also to be open to explore some other things that this country has to offer. And also to know that support is available if needed and to look for that if needed. We all know that new born babies are difficult but things do get better with the age.. they become more capable and can understand more.

And to include children in decision making and even if they are little children that if they are included then they will feel like they are part of a family..they are equal members and they have things to contribute to their family. It is important to teach them values from an early age and be confident that they can make decision for themselves, from an early age. ..particularly teenagers..to not disregard or disrespect them but to value what they say. If we don't agree, of course as parents we can say our opinions ... So just creating the sense of family and belonging. For some newly arrived family, family is all we have, so it is important to listen and respect children, no matter how little they are and hopefully with that, their confidence will grow and they will grow up to be young healthy people.

5. A story from a mother from Burundi (in Kirundi)

1. What is your country of origin? And how long have you been in Australia?

I am from Burundi and I have been in Australia for nearly 4 years. I have 3 children aged 18, 16 and 13 years old.

2. What did you like most during your settlement?

The children and I enjoy being in Australia with plenty of food and security. We don't hear gun fire anymore and we can sleep well. There are so many other good things but the best thing is to live in a safe and peaceful place. If you are hungry, then you are not safe but now we can really relax because it is safe and we have enough food. I also liked the way that I was welcomed by the authorities of Australia and meeting and living with Australians.

3. What are your experiences of raising children in Australia?

It's very hard to raise children in Australia. I experienced a lot of trouble when I first arrived in Australia. It was hard for my children because of the past experiences in Africa. For example, my son thought he could take a rock and hurt people or beat people but when he came here it was not allowed. So I had to seek help so that I could help my child.

Home visits by case workers from MDA and QPASTT helped me and I was open to tell them what I was facing raising my children. They asked my son "What is wrong?" "What doesn't your Mum do for you?" He didn't have anything to say so they said "here in Australia this is what you need to do and this is not acceptable in Australia". Then little by little things started to improve.

I had so many appointments as a new arrival. And sometimes I thought I cannot take all 3 children with me to these appointments. So I asked my daughter who is 15 to look after the other 2 children. In the middle of the appointment, I got a phone call from home and my son said that 'my sister is beating me and I will get a knife'. So I had to say 'no don't do this and just be patient and I will be back soon'.

Another day I was at QPASTT and when I arrived home, the house was a catastrophe. The son had poured water all through the house about 5 centimetres deep. I had to ring MDA and explain the problem and I had to ask for help. Later on things changed because of the counselling I received.

4. What worked well?

To have a dialogue with my children. I told them "if you don't believe I am your mother, then tell me who else do you think will be a good parent for you, then I will hand you over to them. But if I am your mother, then you need to listen to me". I also tried to raise the issues that we struggled with in Africa to show them the past. I asked them if they can see any positive things I did to help them in Africa before coming to Australia. I explained to them how I struggled to raise them and how we were in danger and how I started the process of getting to the visa to come to Australia. I thought that instead of dying in Africa, I needed to try to save the lives of my children. I explained to them that I needed to work really hard to help them in Tanzania. I told them how it was unsafe to go to the forest to find food and some people were killed. I was protected by my God to find food and come back safely to the camp. I told them that I did all these things but I didn't learn any of this in school. Some people who went to school failed to come to Australia but I succeeded. I explained that I loved them and that I struggled

for them and that now we are in a safe country in Australia. I explained that now they need to listen to me if they want to live in this country.

I was open to my children and said they could seek help from our caseworker, community leader or QPASTT. I said that we can go together and if there is anything that I am doing wrong, they can correct me. But because they had nothing to accuse me of, they did not call any family meeting. This worked well – to be open, have a dialogue and allow them to seek help.

5. What didn't work well?

The freedom of children here in Australia was difficult for me as a parent. In our country, we don't have girlfriends or boyfriends, but here my children said that they could have a girlfriend or boyfriend. I encouraged them to focus on education and getting a good job, so that they will succeed in this country, rather than have distractions. But this is something that is still very difficult. For example, my oldest daughter could not continue with school due to an early pregnancy.

Sometimes I feel like children are listened to more than parents. They may not take time to listen to the parents. For example my daughter spent a few nights away from home and then she came with a worker to pick up her things. The worker didn't even ask me what was happening but just took her away. This was not helpful for me as a parent and I should have a say before a decision is made.

6. If you are to provide some advice to newly arrived families/parents regarding raising children in Australia, what would you say?

What I would advise a family is that it is not easy to raise a child in Australia. It is very different – the way children are raised here and Africa is totally different. I would tell the parents that although the child will learn to cope with a new culture, it will be mixed with the old culture and we need to keep advising our children about this. I may advise them to seek advice to help to raise your child in Australia.

I would also ask the parent to be patient and not use physical or emotional abuse. If he uses a stick to beat the child, it will not be a solution for the problem and the only thing they can use is to have a dialogue with the child and seek help. Physical discipline is not acceptable in Australia.

There is a saying from our ancestors that says "Even if you use a stick, then it will break the bone, but it will not change the behaviour". It is to remind parents not to use physical or emotional discipline.

I would also advise the family to help the children to focus on the future. If you can focus on good behaviour and encourage children to focus on the guidance from their parents and teachers then you will get a good position and they may become an important person in Australia. If they don't, then you may not succeed. If you tell your children to respect the law, then the country will provide what they can but if you don't, then they may face many troubles.

6. A story from a father from Burma (in Karen)

1. What is your country of origin? And how long have you been in Australia?

I come from Burma and have been here for 3 years. I have 4 children aged 15, 13, 9 and 6.

2. What did you like most during your settlement?

During my 3 years in Australia what I liked most is the government system that looks after the people here. I like that the people are still struggling to develop their country.

3. What are your experiences of raising children in Australia?

My experience raising children here is very different to raising the children in Thailand or Burma. – The difference is like oil and water. For example, in Burma we can guide our children about their life and their future but in Australia there is more freedom and it is harder to guide our children. They can choose what they want to do and sometimes they may make a wrong choice and this might be a big mistake. For example, in Burma if a parent expects their child to be a Doctor, then the child has to follow that but in Australia they can choose anything and sometimes children get distracted and may try drugs or have lots of fun. Then they will not study and become a Doctor or do the job that parents want or hope for their children.

Lots of children try very hard to do good things for themselves and for this country. Most parents expect their children to do good things but there is a lot of pressure and some may do the wrong thing. Back home, our culture allows us to hit our kids with a stick if they are naughty and then they become respectful and behave well. Here there is a different kind of discipline and we are not allowed to hit our children.

4. What worked well?

The good thing about raising children in Australia is the education system here. The government and systems are very supportive.

There is a story that explains what can work well with raising our children. If you tie up a cow with a long leash, then they will go out onto another field and eat other crops. They have too much to choose and they can wander and get into trouble. But if you tie the cow with a short leash, then they will not wander and get into trouble.

5. What didn't work well?

Culture – Our children feel like our Karen culture is very strict for them and I feel and I see that the children are naughtier than before we came here. I think the children like Australian culture more than the Karen culture. It's really hard to know what to do.

I encourage them to not forget their culture and remind them that they don't have to follow everything in Australian culture.

6. What are your dreams?

In Australia the country is developed and educated so I would like my children to be educated too.

7. If you are to provide some advice to newly arrived families/parents regarding raising children in Australia, what would you say?

People will learn from their experience. The things that we thought before and after we arrive in Australia, some of the thoughts will be right and some will be wrong.

7. A story from a mother from Sudan (in Arabic)

1. What is your country of origin? How long have you been in Australia and how many children do you have?

I was born in Southern Sudan in a place called Juba. I've been in Australia for 7 years and I have 3 children aged 5, 8 and 10 years old.

2. What did you like most during your settlement?

The freedom. In my country there is no freedom to speak but here I have the freedom to speak about things.

3. What are your experiences of raising children in Australia?

In Australia children have the freedom here to talk and do everything. Back home the children have to follow the rules of their Mum and Dad and listen to them. Here sometimes it is difficult for the families because the kids might not listen to the parents anymore.

4. What worked well?

At first it was hard but then I went to QPASTT and I learnt a lot of things. And now I often talk to the community about that and I learnt a lot of things to manage my kids.

For example, in my country we speak loudly and people here speak softly. So sometimes if the Australian people see us talking loudly then they might think that we are fighting. So I told my kids about this and now if they see a family speaking loudly they think they are fighting too!

When I talk to my children I talk softly with them, listen to them and try to be friends with them. At home we have some rules and we do things together..like helping around the home and respecting people outside and inside the home. Also we didn't have 'excuse me' or 'thank you' or 'sorry' in my country but here we use it a lot and my kids use it every day. I remind them to use these words as they are important. I explain that sometimes people are angry and when you say sorry, then it can help people to calm down.

5. What didn't work well?

I think if you have older kids then it is harder and kids sometimes don't respect the mother. I have a friend with this problem and I continue to go to their place and talk to them. It takes time, talking and listening for these relationships to improve.

6. What are your dreams?

I would like to support my children to go to university. I am working hard to support them as I didn't have the chance to go to school in Sudan, because of the war. And I would like to support myself too to study and work in the area of aged care or with children. I also thank God because I have a little bit of English but I need to learn more. We have the opportunity to study English and there are lots of people with good hearts that are helping us a lot.

7. If you are to provide some advice to newly arrived families/parents regarding raising children in Australia, what would you say?

The important thing is to talk to the kids. They sometimes think they have the freedom to do anything but we need to tell them that we need to respect the Australian people. We came here as refugees and we need to learn a lot first – about what is good. For example, in our country we shouldn't look at people in the eyes and the teachers in Australia say that the children should look into the eyes. At home, parents teach the children not to give eye contact ..So it is important to learn about the different ways and change in some ways.

Some parents say that they don't like it when their kids mix with other kids but I say to them that they need to meet other kids and mix and then we can learn a lot of things. And I think kids should come to QPASTT because they can learn a lot. After coming here to QPASTT, I now have the confidence to talk to other parents.

8. A story from a mother from Sudan (in Arabic)

1. What is your country of origin? And how long have you been in Australia?

I am originally from Sudan and I've been in Australia for 6 years. I have 5 children aged between 4 and 16.

2. What did you like the most during your settlement?

The most wonderful experience for me was that Australia is a great country with a great friendly Australian community who welcome refugees like me with a big smile. I liked interacting, integrating and meeting and greeting somebody in the street.

3. What are your experiences of raising children in Australia?

I'm a mother of 5 children. Three came with me from Africa and I have had 2 children here. Raising children in Australia and Africa – there are differences. In Australia it is a nuclear family raising children, just Mum and Dad, but in Africa children are the responsibility of everybody – the whole community. For example, in Africa, if you see children fighting in the street, then you have the right to discipline them and if your children are misbehaving, you have the right to give them a smack on the bottom. But in Australia they say no to this kind of discipline and that has tied my hands. This is difficult for me sometimes because I have a short temper. You also have to always be with your kids. That's the difference and it is challenging. In Africa, if you are a parent from a bigger family, your children are free – they can go around the community. In Australia you need to supervise them all the time and are not allowed to leave your child unattended for a few minutes. That is a big challenge for families.

4. What worked well?

When there is a problem, people look for medicine. In Australia when people go to look for medicine, the doctors come close to help you – that is the agencies help to raise children in Australia. For example, Triple P, QPASTT, TAFE, Sudanese Community Association – that has given me the skill of raising children in Australia and how to understand my kids and how to respond when they behave in a certain way. And how to respond when they want to be called in a certain way – for example calling children 'darling', my lovely and sweetheart, beautiful – that is the difficult thing and saying thank you to your children. This is new to us but you can see your children are very motivated and happy. Another important thing is being patient and taking a deep breath when you feel angry when the kids are naughty. Another new strategy is using 'time out' such as putting the children aside for 5 minutes. It is very difficult because they may bang the door which is hard. But I have to ignore them and when they have finished I explain that there is a condition attached. For example, if they are fighting over a toy, after the time out I explain that they will need to share and say sorry and hug each other. They like this and they laugh. At first it is difficult but with the small ones I can see that it is working. You have to stick to your rules because if you tell them different things each day, they will start playing with you but if you stick to your rules and guides, they will follow it. That is one thing that has helped and is working for me.

5. What didn't work well?

Kids like going out with their friends and in Australia kids have freedom to go out when they are 16 and above. But parents sometimes need to guide and compromise with their children...for example if you discuss with your children you may be able to agree on a time that they should return home but you may allow them to go...So you compromise by letting them go, but also have the final authority to guide and protect them. But still sometimes I feel powerless and it is difficult to negotiate this with my children.

Children adapt very quickly to the new culture but parents may take longer. So there is a conflict of interest and understanding of their new culture and this needs constant work.

6. What are your dreams?

I would like my children to grow up and be successful responsible people in future; this is in the sense they should be good citizens who can contribute effectively to their community and the country they belong to ..that is... Australia. They must absorb the law of the country and keep the values of Australian society. They should not forget their roots as Africans while living in Australia. They have to be successful by working hard in their educational path which will enable them to get better jobs and earn their living.

7. If you are to provide some advice to newly arrived families/ parents regarding raising children in Australia, what would you say?

This is a different country with different culture, ways of life and expectations. Raising children in Australia parents have responsibilities in all aspect of children's well being, e.g. education, health, feeding, social activities and disciplining their children in accordance with Australian ways of raising children. Parents should provide clear family rules and set boundaries for their children, and they must explain the consequences and its impact on the children of any behaviour if their child chooses to behave in different ways. Parents should be a role model, they should not do the wrong thing which will give bad effects on kids, for example domestic violence, using bad language to their partner, they should show respect to themselves and also respect their children, understand the needs of their children and provide all necessary things needed for the well being of their kids.

Parents have control and authority over their children; they have the right to educate, discipline and are responsible for everything in their children's life. Parents should avoid physical beating and should provide everything necessary for their kids.

In conclusion it is individual behaviours that draw the attention of the authorities so I am sure if you behave well your children or your family will have no problems with the Departments of Child Safety.