



## **MEDIA ALERT**

17 June 2024

# **Join us to acknowledge and celebrate the importance of family to the refugee settlement journey**

During Refugee Week, SydWest will host a community event in Blacktown featuring a short film and thought-provoking panel discussion to acknowledge and celebrate successful refugee settlement in Western Sydney.

Following the premier of the short film featuring the stories of three refugees - Adnan Ajjan from Syria, Zohra Anwari from Afghanistan and Suman Chhetri from Bhutan – and the importance of family to their successful settlement, the panel will explore some of the key themes of Refugee Week.

**Date: Wednesday 19 June**

**Time: 10am to 12:30pm**

**Location: Bowman Hall, 21 Campbell St, Blacktown**

### ***Interview talent***

#### **MC and panel facilitator: Sunil Badami**

Born in Blacktown and raised in Seven Hills, Sunil is a writer, performer, broadcaster and academic. He appears regularly on radio and TV, most recently on the ABC TV program *India Now!*

#### **Panelists:**

- **Roman Abasy**, Sports Coordinator at Reclink. Roman is a champion wrestler, engaging with refugees in sports as part of his work. A strong advocate for equality and women's rights, he was forced to flee Afghanistan when the USA withdrew troops and the Taliban took power.
- **Deena Yako**, Director of Community Engagement, Refugee Council of Australia. Deena is a former Assyrian-Mandaean refugee born in Iraq now works as a refugee advocate, utilising her personal experience of surviving and thriving.
- **Suman Chhetri** is featured in our film. He is a former Bhutanese refugee who now works in mental health at the Western Sydney Local Health District.



**Other speakers:**

- **Elfa Moriatakis**, CEO, SydWest Multicultural Services
- **Clr Dr Moninder Singh**, Blacktown Council
- **Uncle Colin Locke** will perform the Welcome to Country.

The event will feature dance performances by the **Filipino Senior Group** and will be attended by up to 300 community members.

Our heartfelt thanks to event sponsors SBS Audio and Blacktown Council.

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