**TRANSCRIPT**

[Interlude]

**Vision Australia. Blindness. Low vision. Opportunity.**

**Stella Glorie:** And our conversation today is: If at first you don't succeed, try and try again. And I'm speaking with Amir Abdi who certainly tried and tried again. He job searched for a year and a half.

Thanks for your time, Amir - and thanks for coming on and telling your story.

**Amir Abdi:** It's a great pleasure being here, thank you.

**Stella Glorie:** So at the moment, you are working as a cross-cultural consultant. Can you tell us what that is?

**Amir Abedi:** So cross-cultural training facilitator - it's a NDIS understanding and it's awareness training for the LAC (local area coordinator) around Brotherhood of St. Lawrence. And we are teaching them about different categories of visas and how to approach people with culture difference and what sort of manners we should use when we meeting participants at their house and from different culture [sic].

**Stella Glorie:** And can you tell us a little bit about yourself as well.

**Amir Abdi:** I'm a student at Psychology degree in Deakin and I've been in Australia for the last five, six years. I've been part of goal-ball and soccer as my hobby and professional as well, and I’m a networker.

**Stella Glorie:** You newly arrived in Australia five years ago. You also have, you're blind and you were looking for a job for a long time. Now that seems like a lot to contend with. How did you build your resilience? What motivated you every day to keep looking for a job?

**Amir Abdi:** Wonderful people around and I've been you know, learning English for a year and a half. When I arrived a year and half, after I was speaking English not fluently but I could speak you know to the point I could work somewhere. And I had a motivation to just contribute to the society. So I start with volunteering in different organisations and after that, I applied so many times. Of course, there was some barriers and little obstacle like, I call them speed bump [sic] so they couldn't have stopped me. So, I finally got some casual work for a different organisation and one of them is this cross-cultural training facilitator with Brotherhood of St. Lawrence.

**Stella Glorie:** The volunteering assist you in any way?

**Amir Abdi:** Yes. First it was awarding because emotionally I could link to other people and listening to the experience and understanding how does it work, the system. And secondly I could hear if you know, there is a problem for me, I could overcome with trying more, you know.

**Stella Glorie:** Now you mentioned that there were good people around you. Who were those good people and how did they help you?

**Amir Abdi:** So with learning new culture and settling to Australia, I had some of the network in VA, Vision Australia and I learned some of like computer skills, Braille. And after that I kept in touch with people who I met here and they advanced my, you know, networking. And I got to know some of the, you know, people who could advise me through their own experience and I'm always grateful for that.

**Stella Glorie:** Did you have a specific job goal in in mind?

**Amir Abdi:** At the start because I needed to, in my mind I was very open about everything and I was saying any job. But as time go [sic] on, you find out you have to be more specific. So, I still working on that but I’m still open about different experience. That's how I learned English as well. So, I go with a different experience and I, I am flexible with different experience [sic] because as you go and challenge yourself, you learn something new and you building to your experience, you know. And sometimes, some of the, you know, things are not going well but sometimes they are building something new for you. And each chance or each opportunity, it, you created you know, with your networking, with your working in different environment. You never know, if you sitting in the coffee shop and applying for a job, you never know the next table who is sitting there and you may meet them and you may you know, find an avenue from there.

**Stella Glorie:** Finally, what would you say to someone who's in a similar position and has been searching for a job for a long time and they might be feeling a bit tired or overwhelmed with the job hunt?

**Amir Abdi:** I would recommend to you know, keep pushing and not listening to them no and there's, if there is a will, there is a way.

**Stella Glorie:** Thank you so much for your time today, Amir.

**Amir Abdi:** It has been a great pleasure being here and really appreciate your time.

**Vision Australia. Blindness. Low vision. Opportunity.**

**Vision Australia logo. Three navy blue ovals linked together diagonally within a bright yellow rectangle.**