

Sisters do it for themselves

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Sisters Zarina and Hafiza are uncertain of their surname.

They fled from Afghanistan to Pakistan after their lives were threatened by the Taliban in 2003. They left behind vital documents, including their birth certificates.

Now they've made a new start in Granville and have found security living with their brother and his wife.

Zarina, 19, and Hafiza, 18, are two of the faces of 2007's Refugee Week (June 17-23). Last week they took part in ACL World Refugee Day celebrations. ACL was formerly known as the Australian Centre for Languages.

Hafiza and Zarina have lived in Granville for nearly five months and said they were glad to leave Afghanistan behind.

"It was not safe there," Zarina said.

Their father was murdered by the Taliban for disagreeing with the movement.

"They caught our father and took him at night and killed him," she said.

The women escaped over the border with their mother, taking only the clothes on their backs.



Zarina and Hafiza said of their new home, "Australia is very nice, it has very good people."

They journeyed by donkey which took just over a day. Pakistan became their

home for two and a half years before they had the opportunity to come to Australia after their mother died.

"We lived with a young lady there [in Pakistan] who is now our sister-in-law. Our brother sponsored us and now we live with them."

Zarina and Hafiza are currently fine tuning their English skills through ACL's Youth Classes. During the classes, students aged 18-25 are taught employment skills and awareness, career development and direction and how to find a job.

They want to work in child care once the Youth Classes are complete.

For further information click [here](#)