

## Cuc Lam Profile: Transcript

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[Start of transcript]

My role is Multicultural Service Officer.

I came to Australia as a refugee.

I was born in Tay Ninh in the south of Vietnam.

Even at a young age I was very, very concerned about my future because at that time during the war there was a lot of fighting and I felt that I needed freedom.

I needed to speak up how I feel.

And I didn't think I'd be able to do that so I escaped from Vietnam by a river boat.

We had to disguise as fishermen and fisherwomen to be like the local people.

The only thing that I brought with me was my Mother's earring, my wedding ring, and a couple of photos.

And I thought, if I die, that's at least something with me that's forever.

In the refugee camp I had to sell my wedding ring because I felt that if I came to the country and I didn't have anything with me, I'd feel a bit insecure.

So I bought the red suitcase just to signify that I'm lucky.

I donated everything to the Immigration Museum to tell the story to the children, and now the red suitcase is classified as a national treasure.

This is the journey.

Nothing's easy, so you have to learn and have to understand that, and to work hard.

I come across a number of refugees and migrants having different stories to tell.

Some very traumatic experiences.

Some were in the refugee camp and some on the boat.

So you always have to be willing to listen and understand where people are coming from.

[End of transcript]