# **In your own words**

## *A celebration of migrant stories from Australia*

In honour of IOM’s 70th Anniversary, IOM in Australia is seeking to collate and publish a book featuring a collection of stories from migrants in Australia. The book aims to recognise and celebrate the achievements and contributions migrants make to the Australian community.

IOM invites you to reflect on your experience as a migrant in Australia, to take a moment to acknowledge the achievements you are most proud of. We welcome your memories, challenges and triumphs which have shaped you and contributed to the fabric of Australian culture.

Through your stories we aim to inspire fellow Australians and develop a meaningful resource to newer arrivals.

# About IOM

# The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is the UN migration agency. Established in 1951, IOM works to help ensure the orderly and humane management of migration, to promote international cooperation on migration issues, to assist in the search for practical solutions to migration problems and to provide humanitarian assistance to migrants in need, including refugees and internally displaced people.Who

IOM in Australia is calling on all migrants in the Australian community to submit their stories of being a migrant in Australia.

We are seeking as much diversity as possible.

We invite stories from individuals from any background and of any age, including children, recent arrivals and those who migrated many years ago and have seen Australia change over time.

All migrants undertake a remarkable journey by settling in a new country including learning new languages, establishing new relationships and communities of support and sharing their traditions and knowledge to enrich society.

Based on your preference, stories may be attributable by name, submitted under a pseudonym or may be completely anonymous.

Format

1. Stories may be shared in any language (IOM will provide translation for publication) or visual form.
2. Stories may take any form, including, but not limited to, narratives, poems, songs, photography, artwork or a combination.
3. Stories may be handwritten
4. Stories may be of any length.
5. Stories may originate from any form of migration to Australia (e.g. refugees, asylum seekers, skilled migrants, partner visas, international students etc.)

Submission

Submissions, or expressions of interest should be submitted in the following manner.

## To: **Email submissions to iomcanberra@iom.int**

## Include:

1. Submission Form (It can be found here: [Call For Submissions – A Celebration of Migrant Stories From Australia | IOM Australia](https://australia.iom.int/call-submissions-celebration-migrant-stories-australia))
2. Completed Consent Form.
3. Attachments e.g. images, documents.

## File Size Limitations: Please ensure submissions including attachments do not exceed 2MB.

Inspiration

The following questions may provide some guiding questions to consider including in your story:

* What is your country of origin?
* Why did you come to Australia?
* What were your first impressions of Australia?
* What challenges did you face when you arrived in Australia and how did you overcome these challenges?
* Describe your mindset after arriving in Australia.
* What achievements are you most proud of in your migration experience?
* What connections do you maintain with your country of origin and your culture?
* What do you feel you have brought to Australia as a migrant?
* Where did you draw your strength during difficult times?
* How has Australia changed since your arrival?
* Is there any individual, group or organization you would like to recognise or thank for their support?

*By providing a submission, contributors give consent to IOM to publish their stories in a planned book (noting any requests for anonymity and/or omissions).*

# **Submission Form**

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| --- | --- |
| **Name:** |  |
| **Email:** |  |
| **Phone Number:** |  |
| **State of Residence:** |  |
| **Attribution of submission:**Please indicate how you would like your name to appear next to your submission if selected for publication. Unless indicated otherwise attribution will be: First name, Country of Origin, year of migration to Australia. |  |
| **Please indicate if you received assistance from IOM at any stage to migrate to Australia.** |  |
| **Please indicate if you would be interested in participating in a video documentary about migrating to Australia.** |  |