



Nick Moraitis of the Moraitis Group, shows Martin Rowley from Max Employment Auburn, his food processing set up, with new employee Emad Al-Karawi. Photo by GEORGE VOULGAROPOULOS

Give refugees a go

MAX Employment wants more employers to help job seekers, particularly refugees and recent arrivals, such as Auburn resident Emad Al-Karawi, get into work.

Arriving in Australia a year ago as a United Nations refugee from Iraq, Mr Al-Karawi found work on the factory floor with the Moraitis Group at Homebush through Max Employment.

Trained as a film director, the 36-year-old fled to Jordan six years ago after his brother was killed and his house stolen by street gangs during the war.

Speaking through a translator, Mr Al-Karawi said that since starting work, he had been able to buy furniture and move his eight-month-old son, who was born in Australia, and his pregnant wife out of a one-bedroom unit.

“Moraitis gave me a chance. Throughout my life, I have never sat at home and I love working,” he said.

“When I came here it was hard to find work. I didn’t like relying on government benefits from Centrelink.

“I have found freedom, safety and people to help me like Centrelink, Najah, Husam, Taylee and Martin from Max Employment and Nick, Joe and Bill at Moraitis.”

Owner of the Moraitis Group, Nicholas Moraitis said it was unfortunate that many people born in Australia didn’t “really appreciate and get behind” their own country.

Mr Moraitis said that as a refugee, Mr Al-Karawi had changed his entire life and was thankful for the opportunity to make a life for himself and his family here.

“He didn’t sit on his bum and cry about it, he said ‘this is what I have to do’ - I admire that,” Mr Moraitis said.

“My philosophy in life is to give everyone a go wherever possible. I am in a position to help and we do what we can, when we can.”

Aiming to work with local employers and job seekers, the business manager of Max Employment Auburn, Martin Rowley, said there was a lot of stigmatism and misconceptions about refugees.

“Many Auburn residents have the right attitude and skills to work and we are just asking for employers, like Moraitis has done, to give them a fair go to help them integrate into the Australian lifestyle. You need a job to be able to sustain that,” Mr Rowley said.