**Transcript – Oscar Yildiz**

As a school teacher I loved my profession, uh taught for a number of years, from primary right through to secondary, delivered some training at, at higher, at, at TAFE level as well. Went overseas to various countries and taught overseas as well, but I think at, at my prime, um, you know in my early thirties I felt that I wanted to do something a bit more challenging. I then decided to, to go into something quite different and it wasn’t until someone said to me “hey why don’t you go into politics? Why don’t you join the local council here in Moreland?” and having been born and bred in Moreland I felt that it was time for me to, to give that a go, love the multiculturalism, love the diversity, love the restaurants. I’m a guy who’s got a lot of passion for what I do, and if I believe in it I’ll give it 150%. I never do anything half-hearted, and I think having a good personality, I think I’m, I’m able to build rapport with people, instantly, um, and I treat people with respect and I treat people the way I want to be treated, and that’s never failed. I became involved in the Bully Zero Australia Foundation through launching a number of storyboards, and storyboards are a whole lot of pictures that communicate key messages, and I launch one of these storyboards with, the Helkidge family and, Dena and Ali had lost their son Alam at the age of 17 who unfortunately jumped off the Westgate Bridge and, it, I was certainly profoundly affected by that, but it wasn’t until we visited the home of a, of a family who had lost their daughter only a week earlier to, to cyber bullying and I was deeply touched, deeply touched, and I felt why are the existing charities and foundations not here, why aren’t they addressing this issue, why aren’t they supporting this family and I felt there was a huge gap. I’ve got a 14 year old daughter and 10 year old daughter and I felt, hey this could happen to me, and felt that something needed to be done. So I basically was able to, very quickly, bring a whole group of passionate people together and drive this foundation and establish this foundation, so, so far we’ve now saved 16 lives and that to me means the world. Having come from a family where my father came here with nothing except a suitcase it was very important to my parents that education and academia was what they wanted, so pretty much everyone in the family went through university, and my other brothers also graduated from La Trobe University. So education was very important for us, for my family, and so, but being bullied repeatedly at school and not being able to retaliate, not being able to respond because it was so important to my parents that we didn’t get the cane, back then the cane was in existence, we didn’t get expelled or we didn’t get suspended. I owe so much to La Trobe. What I am today, the commitment, the dedication, the personality that I’ve developed has, all has come as a result of the La Trobe University. Um, I think of the days when I felt honestly like I was home, I felt more safer sometimes at La Trobe then I would sometimes feel at home would you believe it or not. You don’t often meet your tutor after hours, but the fact that you could do that, the fact that your tutor was prepared to sit with you and go through with you because they cared, look, I, it had a huge impact on my life, huge impact, and there’s only a couple of things in my life that I can say yes these are the pivotal things that have, have determined who I am today, La Trobe University is one of those. La Trobe was my sanctuary La Trobe was the place that I was not only educated, but I was mentored, I was coached, I was taught to be a good human being.