**Be the difference – Allem’s story**

**Oscar:** My name is Oscar Yildiz and I graduated from La Trobe University in 1994. The courses I finished were the Diploma of Education and also a Bachelor of Social Sciences.

Bully Zero Australia Foundation is there basically to protect Australians from the harmful effects of bullying, and we’re there as an organisation trying to create awareness and educate as many people as we possibly can.

**Ali:** My name is Ali Halkic and I’m a founding partner of Bully Zero. I dealt with the issue of losing Allem to bullying and I was contacted to be a visitor to a storyboard that Oscar Yildiz was presenting through the Moreland Council.

In that period, there was a young lady who took her own life, a fifteen-year-old girl, and Oscar contacted me and said, ‘Look, can you come down?’

All we did was be present and listened to the family, and we were just supportive.

**Oscar:** Following that visit to the family, I said to him, ‘We’re going to do something about this,’ and it was basically after that night that him and I decided to establish the foundation.

Ali’s the backbone, Ali’s the inspiration.

**Ali:** I believe if Allem was exposed to this, I think he would be alive here today and that’s how much I believe in it. What Oscar has shown me is that, out of the tragedy, I have a purpose. The more people see Allem, the more at peace I am, because he’ll never be forgotten.

**Oscar:** La Trobe University was a huge part of my life. I owe a lot of what I am today to the skills and experience that I was able to gain from La Trobe University.

La Trobe is a prestigious university, it’s got so many things to offer. I was really passionate about legal studies, I wanted to do a bit of economics, and the fact that you were able to pick and choose what you wanted, the offerings were there.

Some of those key skills and things I was able to learn from La Trobe University have allowed me to establish a foundation where we’re actually now giving people the opportunity to work for us.

Was La Trobe a university that did want you to challenge the status quo? Was it a university that wanted you to go outside the boundaries? Was it a university that wanted you to see the big picture stuff? Absolutely it was. And that’s one reason probably why this came about, because I could see beyond the basics.