

# Family finally finds home

## It's not as hot and definitely safer than Sudan

By Jono Pech

AFTER a series of relocations a Sudanese family has finally found their home in Mildura.

Leaving their war-torn homeland, Rebecca Luk and her children moved to Melbourne in 2003, spending five years looking for a safer environment to raise a family.

In February last year Rebecca moved to Mildura with her children Elizabeth Pur, 14, Changkouth, 7, and Nyantut, 3.

Although they knew Mildura was the ideal place to live, it was still a long time before the family finally settled down.

They were first put in a crisis property before moving to transitional housing for three months, and then lived in public housing before finally being moved to their current home, an affordable housing property.

Elizabeth said it had been hard to move so much but they were finally happy and settled.

"We're happy here and there's much better people in this neighbourhood," she said. "It feels like home."

"I want to be here the rest of my life."

"Most of the people help us a lot, which is really good. It wasn't like that in Melbourne, nobody helped."

"The housing people in Melbourne wouldn't give us a new place when we asked to move."

"On a Friday night we took the bus down here and looked at Mildura, went

to the river and we all thought it was a good place so we moved here."

She said Mildura suited the family's lifestyle much better than Melbourne.

"It's better and mum wanted to change our life a little bit."

"Nearly every teenager like me in Melbourne just leaves home and hangs around the station all the time."

"It's really dangerous down there."

"It's safe in Mildura."

"I hate the hot weather but it's really great to jump in the river or go to Waves."

"Sudan is a lot hotter than this."

"Our village had war nearly every day and there was no education."

"They would come at night and try to kill people."

"Mum wanted to move somewhere with better education."

The family's home is one of Loddon Mallee Housing Services' 22 affordable housing properties in Mildura.

Belinda Caratsanoudis, Community Connections program coordinator, said it was rewarding to see the family making progress in Mildura.

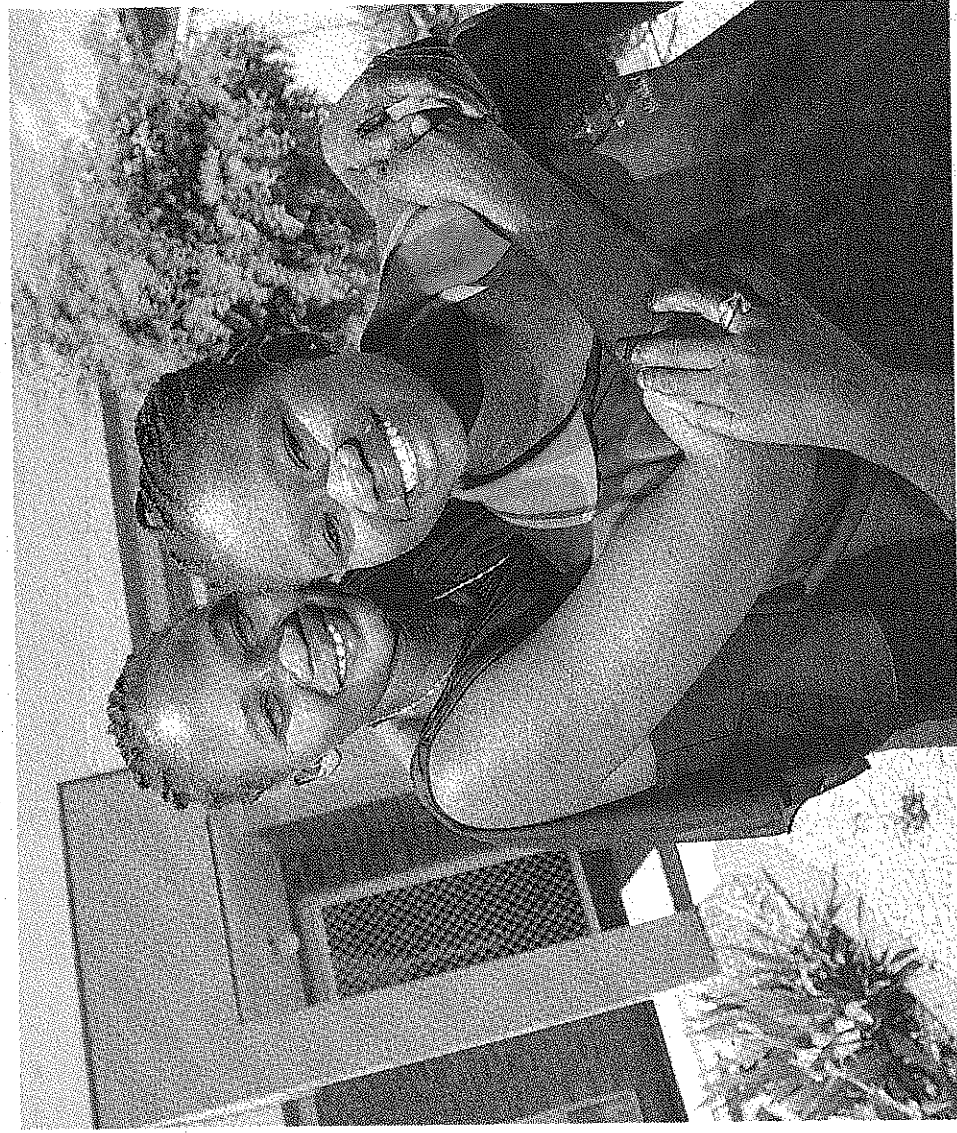
"I met Rebecca and the children in Mildura 18 months ago before they had housing," she said.

"It's nice to see smiles on the faces of the whole family compared to before."

"They're much more relaxed."

"Rebecca asked the other day about finding a job, which is great to see."

"Having aims and goals comes from having a solid home base."



AT HOME: Rebecca Luk and her daughter Elizabeth Pur, 14, are delighted to call Mildura home.

Picture: Stacey Martin