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When sisters Samah and Rawah arrived in Australia from Iraq in 2019, they could not have imagined how much their lives would change.

Today, with NDIS support, the Toowoomba sisters are pursuing their goals, building their independence and embracing opportunities that once seemed out of reach.

‘We are so grateful for our NDIS supports,’ Samah said. ‘They have been really helpful.’

For both sisters, assistive technology has been life changing.

‘It has given us independence,’ Rawah said.

Before coming to Australia, access to equipment and supports was limited. Their family made do with what was available, often sharing a single scooter that frequently broke down.

‘We just knew it helped us move,’ Samah said.

When the sisters received their own NDIS-funded equipment, everything changed.

Rawah still remembers the day hers arrived.

‘I was eating breakfast and they brought it in,’ she said. ‘I was screaming so loudly. I was so happy.’

The sisters laugh about their different driving styles. Rawah loves speed, while Samah prefers to take things a little more cautiously.

Today, they enjoy spending time with family and friends, visiting parks, attending community events and moving about with greater freedom.

NDIS-funded supports have also helped them develop skills and confidence in their daily lives. Support workers assist them with routines and activities, while therapies help them work towards their goals.

One of their strongest supporters has been their occupational therapist, who encouraged the sisters to build confidence, speak up and even share their experiences through podcasting.

That confidence has inspired both sisters to dream bigger.

Rawah is studying a Bachelor of Law, while Samah is working towards a career in medicine.

‘I want to give back to the community and to this beautiful country,’ Samah said.

Both hope to use their education and lived experience to help others and create positive change.

‘We study, we love education and art, and we get to spend more time with our family and friends,’ Samah said.

‘Everyone around you makes you feel like you have a life, and you should live it,’ Rawah added.

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