

MEDIA RELEASE

8th February 2017

Writing Through Fences – Hani Abdile launches her poetic & powerful book

Hani Abdile fled Somalia in 2013 and was held in Australia's immigration detention for 18 months. During that time Hani found solace and empowerment in writing. Next week on **Thurs 16th Feb** this amazing young woman launches her first book ***"I Will Rise"*** at **Newcastle Library**.

Hani Abdile is a writer, poet and advocate from Somalia who now lives in Sydney. She is a lead writer for *Writing Through Fences* and performs her work throughout Australia. Her work has been published in literary journals, online and in anthologies. Hani was the recipient of performance art and community leadership awards during Refugee Week in 2015 and 2016 and was awarded a Civics and Citizen Merit Award by the NSW Government in 2015. Hani has a huge thirst for education and has learned to read and write in English over the past three years. She plans to become a journalist and human rights lawyer.

MEDIA CALL

Hani Abdile book launch of:

"I WILL RISE"

WRITING THROUGH FENCES

Date: Thurs 16th February 2017

Venue: The Lovett Gallery, Newcastle Library Laman Street, Newcastle

Time: 5pm - 7pm

Life Without Barriers CEO Claire Robbs said, "Hani is an extraordinary young woman – and now a published author! She has been a wonderful a client representative on the Life Without Barriers Practice Committee and has met regularly with myself and the Board to discuss the challenges facing refugees and how our organisation can respond. Hani's lived experience, enthusiasm and energy has been invaluable to us."

WE LIFE WITHOUT BARRIERS VE

“I Will Rise” was written between 2013 and 2016 and Hani says, “I was sitting in a place with only a fence and hapless humans. My pen and paper were bright flashes that lit up my steps. What people don't know is I wasn't a writer or a poet until moments of suffering made me a writer. When everything in your life is dictated by others, writing becomes enjoyable. It is not forced. It is a weapon against stress and despair. For me it was a way of healing and relief.”

“I Will Rise” reflects Hani's tenacity and determination, her dedication to writing and her creative approach to all that life has brought.

“Hani is an incredibly brave writer. This book is a cathartic journey, purging her hardships through the creation of beauty. Through the pain of her experiences, Hani has kept hope and joy alive through her poetry. From Somalia to Christmas Island detention to Sydney, the theme of Hani's challenging life has been and still is *'I Will Rise'*. The poems are full of passion, emotion and intellectual depth. The richness of her language and the vividness of her imagery signals the beginnings of a great writer,” says Miles Merrill, Word Travels.

END

About Life Without Barriers: Life Without Barriers (LWB) is one of Australia's largest leading social purpose organisations, working in more than 300 communities across all states and territories. Its major areas of operations include family support and out-of-home care, mental health services, youth justice, disability services, community based aged care, homelessness services, support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and support to refugees and asylum seekers.

Media Enquiries

Abby Edwards
External Communications, Media & Events Coordinator - Life Without Barriers
E: abby.edwards@lwb.org.au
T: (02) 9307 9309 or 0472 821 808

Or

Maggie McKeown
National Manager – External Relations
E: margaret.mckeown@lwb.org.au
T: 0458 592 828

Interviews & Images

- To Download **High Res Images** of Hani Abdile please [Click Here](#)
- Hani is available for interviews through Life Without Barriers