



Don't be afraid to ask: Lucero Santofimio thanks St George Migrant Resource Centre for helping her start a new life in Australia. **Picture:** Jane Dyson

■ Migrant resource centre played a vital part in her new life

Help for newcomers

By **Jim Gainsford**

LUCERO Santofimio is proof that migrants should not be afraid to ask for information when they arrive in Australia.

Ms Santofimio, 28, came to Australia from Colombia, South America, on January 1 last year following her husband Luis.

While she had studied English for five years in Colombia, she had little idea about education opportunities and services available here.

"When I arrived I didn't know how to start," she said. "I was reading the web and found St George Migrant Resource

Centre and went to their annual education and employment expo. I found everything there. They explained the courses and services available for migrants. They helped me find a course at TAFE in financial services."

Ms Santofimio was offered work experience at the HSBC Bank and was offered a full-time job.

"Everything was easier for me because of St George Migrant Resource Centre. They helped me get to where I am now. There are a lot of opportunities in Australia for migrants. Some people feel afraid to ask for information.

"I want to say: 'Don't be afraid to ask.'"

St George Migrant Information Day will help migrants get access to and connect with settlement services available for them.

The information day is free and will have 53 services providing information on health, housing, employment, citizenship, education and training. Bilingual staff will be available. There will be free entertainment, music and dance, and food.

The information event is next Wednesday, October 27, at Rockdale Town Hall, from 10am to 1pm.



Future graphics: Students had a taste of their chosen industry when their skills were put to the test in a design competition. From left, Benjamin Pride, competition winner Joanna Baaney, and Kirsten Kaye Castillo. **Picture:** Jane Dyson

Migrants will receive a helping hand

ST GEORGE TAFE Kogarah students were given the task recently of creating the official poster to promote St George Migrant Information Day this year.

The annual event, which will be

held at Rockdale Town Hall on Wednesday, October 27, provides information for newly arrived migrants to the region.

Two year 11 groups from Georges River College Oatley Senior College

and Blakehurst High School who study at the TAFE designed the flyer as part of a course project.

The three best designs were recognised during an award ceremony last week.