# Thomas thrives with Aurora transcript

Music intro

Thomas: I'm Thomas Pastras and I’m an intelligence analyst. What an intelligence analyst does in its purest sense is it gives justification for people to report fraud and furthermore, to ensure them that we take fraud seriously. Some people want to exploit the system for their own benefit. I don't like when that happens, especially since it takes away from the honest people who honestly need the money.

Voiceover: For Thomas this means investigating tip-offs and proving or disproving allegations through the use of data, customer records and information from third parties, like the ATO.

Thomas: The way I look at that, I’ll usually think to myself, what story does it tell? What does it say about the alleged perpetrator’s intentions and furthermore, I usually also look at the customer's record and when I look, look at it, I also ask, what does it say about their intentions? Did they intend to commit fraud? Is it an honest mistake? It's figuring it out. That's the fun part.

Voiceover: The Aurora program is a partnership with Specialisterne Australia, a dedicated recruiter of people with autism. And as Nick explains, it's designed differently to let people shine.

Nick: I think different is to be able to tap into that talent that a lot of organisations aren't seeing because of the traditional, conventional recruitment process tends to have a lot of roadblocks for autistic job seekers. So what we do, we don't necessarily want to for the jobs they get to tell us why they're the best person for the job. We want them to show us. And we take a practical patient approach to our recruitment programs that span over a few weeks to be able to assess those talents and showcase those talents.

Thomas: I've applied for many jobs for, for example at fast food outlets, like McDonald's, KFC and jobs that are more relevant to my skill, skillsets, such as tutoring programs. But I did not have my success with those before I came here. What made this process better for me was that it gave me a chance to show off my skills rather than had to think. Think of it, like had to think of a time when I did this and then read it off to an interviewer. It gave me a chance to actually put pen to paper.

Voiceover: 2 years on Thomas loves his job and continues to thrive.

Nick: I think Thomas is a great employee because it's the way he's able to look at things differently. That innovation that he brings, the problem solving that he has for the role and the ability to hyper focus on aspects of get the job done. And that is just that high quality output.

Voiceover: And for Thomas it's about more than doing a good job. It's about being part of a team and giving back to the broader community.

Thomas: It's the atmosphere, the collaboration between each other and the fact that my other team members are quite approachable. The fact that I’m doing important work for the people of Australia and the fact that I'm helping eliminate fraud from the Australian welfare system and the fact I'm working a job that I fully enjoy.

Music outro

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