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## Community voices – transcript – OH 254/19

**Cheong Liew**

1994

Interviewer: Viv Szekeres

From Lamington to Laksa: Interviews about Food by the Migration Museum

*Extract of an Oral History dated 1994 of the renowned chef explaining how he set up his business and the freedom Adelaide provided for business ventures.*

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It so happened that Barry who was my partner at Nedeez was ... Actually how Barry got his job was he went into Kai's shop one day to look for a job and he was very attracted to working at Kitcheners. And he came up to me and said 'Do you think I'd be able to get a job over there?'

And I said: 'This is a free country, there's no harm in you going there and ask them. And they won't eat you'.

And he went across and he did. He got a job. He got the job dishing up curries and I was cooking at Moos and Ladies at the time. And we became friends.

He stopped for a while, came back from London and he sold his business which is Gay Dogs on Hutt Street. And also found out that Nedeez Kitchen, in those days was called Nedeez Kitchen, is up for sale, and he asked whether I want to start a restaurant.

I said ... 'I now want to start one on my own'.

And he said 'Oh, I'll come in with you'.

And I said 'That's great', knowing that, well, he's, at least he's got Gay Dogs as his own business but I've never had any business doing ... in Australia.

We just went into it blind really.