



Lona Samson has graduated from a leadership course for migrant students.

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Leader in the making

Tijana Gvozdic, on work experience

CARWATHA College Year 10 student Lona Samson is one of a select few.

The Sudanese teenager was among just 30 students from Greater Dandenong chosen to take part in a five-day leadership course for young migrants and refugees.

The Young Leaders of Today program, run by the Centre for Multicultural Youth Issues and the Aust-

ralian Red Cross, aims to encourage young people to become more active in their local communities.

Centre for Multicultural Youth Issues director Carmel Guerra said the course equipped participants with leadership skills that were transferable to their own lives.

"This program has developed out of a recognition that migrant and refugee young people endure a range of experiences that place them at a distinct

disadvantage compared to other Victorian young people," Ms Guerra said.

Lona said the experience taught her a lot about herself and others.

She said it had motivated her to participate and help her community as well as follow her dream to become a singer.

"My favourite part of the program was the guest speakers. They talked about themselves and some of the struggles they have been through," she said.