

Cr Mohamed Semra

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Cr. Semra is Mayor of the City of Maribyrnong and is Victoria's first Sudanese Mayor. When Mohamed was 16 he and five of his African Australian friends were stopped from entering an Apple store in Melbourne because they might 'steal something'. That experience led to him establishing Endeavour Youth Australia.

“I was very young when we arrived in Australia. Mum showed immense leadership, courage and initiative to move our family to the other side of the globe.

Being able to get public housing in Maidstone meant there was one less thing Mum had to worry about and made it so much easier for her to focus on our wellbeing and education.

For me, living in Maidstone for basically my whole life meant I could expand my networks and get a real sense of belonging. A sense of belonging is super important for young people going out into the world and trying to figure out who they are.

When I experienced racism at the Apple store I realised it was an opportunity to have a broader conversation about racism and to try to find solutions. That is why the work of Endeavour Youth Australia is so important.



Our last Multicultural Youth Leadership Conference was about breaking down barriers and redefining leadership.

When I became Mayor I wanted to highlight that I am from public housing because without that strong base, without my community and my teachers then I wouldn't be here.

For young people in public housing today my message is to own your own story. Back yourself and take the opportunities that come along, even if you think you are not 100% ready for them.”

Public & Proud

