

CITATION: SENADA ALDOBASIC

Winner: 2013 Newsboys Foundation Community Leadership Award

Senada Aldobasic, who prefers to be called Nada, is the first in her family to finish high school and go on to university. Nada is in the third year of her Bachelor of Arts (Criminal Justice Administration) at RMIT.

But that is only the beginning of Nada's remarkable example and contribution.

In her first year at University she volunteered for the Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience, known as AIME. In 2012 Nada was recruited by AIME to assist Program Manager, Kyle Vander Kuyp at Monash University. Earlier this year she was employed to deliver AIME sessions to Indigenous young people across Victoria.

Nada, 20, has also taken part in the Victorian Youth Parliament and the National Indigenous Youth Parliament. As a leader in the Victorian Youth Parliament she engaged 120 young people to create mock legislation and facilitate debates at Parliament house.

Nada has been a mentor during a week-long leadership camp, a camp leader for YMCA KGI (Korin Gamadji Institute) which conducts camps for Indigenous young people and has participated in a number of leadership camps.

Nada has worked with the Vanessa Bus, engaging with young people at public events about the importance of safe driving, including providing young people with free water, breath tests and a place to sober up after events.

She has run a youth group in Dandenong, volunteered at the YMCA, worked with children who have parents in jail, through Prison Fellowship Victoria and played basketball with prisoners through Slam Ministry.

As well as all that, Nada has volunteered with Urban Seed and has also volunteered overseas.

Nada can't be here tonight because she is in the Indian Sub-Continent on a placement as part of her university studies. She is helping a young Bangladeshi girl who had been trafficked reintegrate with her family. Nada is passionate about international human rights, especially the prevention of human trafficking and support for young people who have been trafficked.