

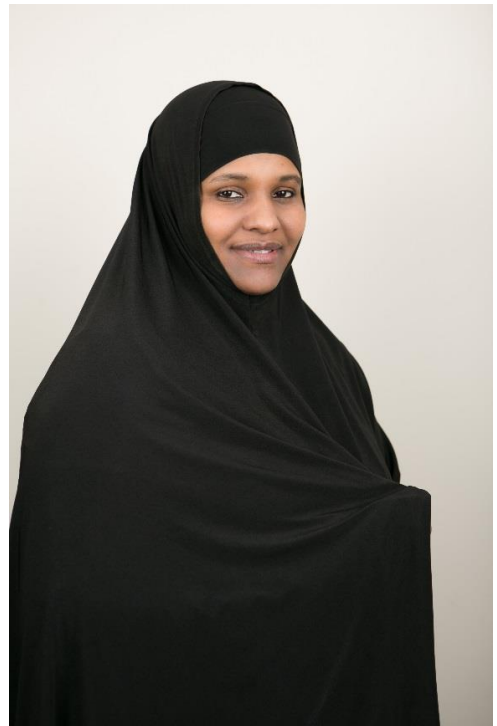
## FADUMA GAS: THE COMMUNITY GO-GETTER

Faduma Gas has been living in Braybrook for 13 years, but it wasn't until she joined the Braybrook on Board Leadership Program in 2016 that she truly felt a part of the community.

She explained that the program gave her a deeper understanding of how her community functions.

"It was amazing, it was something that I never connect with leadership but I became aware of what my community is, where we stand, how many things are available for us, what the future plan is for the community," Faduma said.

Her motivation for joining the program stemmed from her drive to improve opportunities for young people and to support parents.



"To make the community better is to help the young ones. To stand up for them and not have kids on the streets at the end of the evening and every parent to know what's happening and where to go for help if they need.

"I am a go-getter. I don't like to hesitate on what's going to happen or what can come out of that, I just want to go for whatever I realise is good for me or the community or my children," Faduma said.

As part of the program, Faduma along with four of her classmates worked in partnership with YMCA RecWest to pilot an after school homework and exercise program for year 5 and 6 children at RecWest Braybrook.

The program aims to give children a safe place to study and play; to support those experiencing hardship; to help prepare students for high school; and give them the opportunity to mix with children from a range of different cultures and backgrounds.

"This is just a pilot to see what we are capable of, but hopefully next year we can work on every year level and provide that service. We got to start somewhere and this is the somewhere. Hopefully it will be a success," she said.

Since completing the program, Faduma's idea of leadership has changed.

"A good leader is the one that takes the advice and suggestions from other people, from those you want to lead. If I am a leader, I am only one because people want me there to be a leader.

"I always like to be the quiet person, but you can't be if you have a dream. You have to reach and stand up for what you think and you work hard to achieve it," Faduma said.

