OUR VISION

TO MAKE A LASTING CONTRIBUTION TO REMOTE ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES IN THE REDUCTION OF PREVENTABLE AND CHRONIC DISEASE CAUSED BY POOR NUTRITION.

OUR MISSION

To grow, in partnership with remote Aboriginal communities, edible gardens and practical, healthy eating programs that sow the seeds of changing attitudes to nutrition for generations to come.

THE WAY WE WORK

The core values that guide the way we work include:

Trust – we value and seek the trust of the communities with whom we work and the trust of our funding partners who enable our work;

Respect – for our program participants, our stakeholders and the Aboriginal culture;

Accountability – we do what we say we are going to do; and

Adaptability – we are practical and innovative in our approach, constantly striving for improvement.
HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

This year EON:

• Received additional multi-year funding from the Australian Government Department of Health to expand across the Northern Territory, plus extend the program in Western Australia.

• Delivered the EON Thriving Communities Program to 12 Western Australian communities, continuing at 9 communities in the Pilbara and Kimberley and expanding to 3 new communities in the Murchison.

• Delivered the EON Thriving Communities Program to 12 Northern Territory communities, continuing at 3 communities on Groote Eylandt and expanding to 9 new communities in the Big Rivers Region.

• Further increased our Aboriginal employment to 21 Community Assistants plus provided further paid casual work to other local community members.

• Continued to provide mentoring support to the Dampier Peninsula communities of Djarindjin Lombadina, One Arm Point, Beagle Bay and Bidyadanga.

• Increased Aboriginal partnerships and investment in EON across Western Australia and the Northern Territory.

Our Year in Numbers

During 2018/2019 EON Foundation delivered our EON Thriving Communities Program to:

- **24** Remote Communities
- **381** community visits
- **712** days in community
- **5,347** nutritious meals
- **501** edible garden classes
- **531** healthy eating classes
- **10,251** student interactions
- **1,162** community interactions
- **199,138kms** travelling

"The children have been incredibly vocal in their love for the EON Program, stating ‘I want to be just like you Tim, I want to be a gardener’. This sort of passion develops through strong relationships and through the connections the children have with their land. What a wonderful thing, hearing a child so passionate about their future possibilities."

– Teacher, Strelley Community School, Warralong.
It has been another extremely busy and productive year for EON Foundation. In 2018/2019 we expanded into two new regions - the Murchison in Western Australia and the Big Rivers Region in the Northern Territory.

Over the last 18 months EON undertook extensive desktop and on-the-ground research of the Northern Territory communities on its waiting list to assess those that would most likely fulfill the program criteria. We consulted widely with a range of stakeholders to assist in this process, resulting in the prioritising of 9 communities in the Big Rivers Region. Thanks to generous funding provided by the Australian Government Department of Health we have now established the program at Barunga, Bulman, Jilkminggan, Manyallaluk, Ngukurr, Pine Creek, Urapunga and Wugularr (Beswick).

With this expansion and the commencement of the program in 3 new communities in the Murchison region of Western Australia, EON has taken its operations from 12 remote communities to 24 remote communities in less than 6 months.

For a small organisation to undertake such a major expansion so quickly was a daunting task but one which everyone at EON - from the Board to the Management team to the Project Managers - took on with great enthusiasm. Management had to visit all the communities to negotiate and sign Sustainability Agreements and organize the logistics of getting started. We relocated our experienced Operations Manager to the Northern Territory to take on a new EON National Operations Manager role, appointed a WA Operations Manager to provide focused leadership for the WA operations team, recruited new Project Managers, inducted them, developed operational plans for each community, built relationships with community members and school staff, and physically started the program in the new locations.

We’re already seeing hugely positive results from the work of our dedicated Project Managers in the Big Rivers Region with our new communities embracing the program with gusto.

After extensive community consultation and signing of Sustainability Agreements, we’re also pleased the program has now been implemented in three communities in the Murchison region of Western Australia. The schools/communities of Meekatharra, Mount Magnet and Yalgoo are enthusiastically receiving fortnightly visits from our Murchison Project Manager and it’s encouraging to see how much the students are enjoying harvesting the garden produce to create nutritious meals.

We’re excited about our increasing engagement with Aboriginal owned corporations and our new collaborations, particularly with the Community Development Program (CDP). For example, EON recently signed an MOU with Roper Gulf Regional Council to enable CDP workers to assist with the program at Jilkminggan, Urapunga, Barunga, Manyallaluk, Ngukurr, Bulman and Beswick. Approximately 50 CDP workers have contributed to the program in the NT so far.

While the gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal health remains high, we remain committed to growing more fresh food to keep the children and communities we work with healthy, and prevent the diseases that keep them from participating fully in school and in life.

Even with our expansion this year we continue to have a long waiting list of communities across WA and the NT keen to work with us so we will continue to seek funding to address this need.

We would not be able to achieve any of our work without the valued financial support of our generous donors and funding partners. Particular thanks to BHP, Australian Government Department of Health, GEBIE, the WA Department of Communities, Charlie and Sylvia Bass and Marion Tapper.

Thank you also to the pro bono EON Board, our Ambassador Rishelle Hume AM as well as Perth and Katherine staff who share a genuine passion for long-term improvement to Indigenous health through our work.

Sincere thanks to our regional Project Managers and Community Assistants who work tirelessly to deliver our program in sometimes challenging environments. The knowledge, expertise and dedication of our employees is the key to our continued success.

And as always, a special thank you to the enthusiastic and committed children, teachers and families in the remote communities in which we work who place their trust in us.

This is an exciting period for EON and we have much to be optimistic about, with tremendous opportunities ahead to meet demand by expanding to new communities, while continuing to evolve the program to have the greatest possible impact.

Caroline de Mori
Chair
Heart Disease
Type 2 Diabetes
Kidney Disease

Many of the principal causes of poor health in remote Indigenous communities, such as:

- 95% of Indigenous children have an inadequate daily intake of fruit and vegetables.
- The cost of fresh food products in remote Indigenous communities is between 35% and 45% higher than in the nearest capital city.
- Hot chips, sugary drinks, high-fat processed meats, salty snacks and white bread are the highest contributors to caloric intake for remote Indigenous children.
- 90% of children in remote communities have some form of middle ear infection which is associated with poor nutrition.

Indigenous children are 8 times more likely to have Type 2 diabetes as non-Indigenous children.

Five of the seven leading factors contributing to the health gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians (obesity, high blood cholesterol, alcohol, high blood pressure, low fruit and vegetable intake) relate to poor diet.

“I LIKE DIGGING AND PLANTING THE SEEDS. WE WATCH THE VEGGIES GROW, THEN WE GET TO EAT THEM!”

– Student, 8 years, South Hedland
A FRESH APPROACH

EON Foundation was established in 2005 in response to the Telethon Institute for Child Health Research Longitudinal Study into Aboriginal Child Health.

The EON Thriving Communities Program operates by invitation only from remote Aboriginal communities. It is a hands-on gardening, cooking, nutrition education and hygiene partnership program based around establishing edible fruit, vegetable and bush tucker gardens in remote schools with the involvement of local community members. The gardens are a source of fresh, healthy, affordable food for school children and the community in general and provide a basis for training and jobs for adults.

The Thriving Communities Program is delivered by EON’s Project Managers who visit each community fortnightly for up to five years, providing education and training as well as building capacity amongst local people to enable them to maintain the program themselves.

The EON Thriving Communities Program builds capacity, seeks to prevent disease, improve health, educational potential and economic opportunities by:

- Ensuring there is a source of fresh healthy food available
- Teaching children and adults to grow their own food and prepare it in a healthy environment
- Providing nutrition and health education to encourage healthy choices
- Providing training and mentoring to ensure sustainability

The EON Thriving Communities Program is unique in Australia


“EATING HEALTHY AND LIVING HEALTHY IS IMPORTANT. IT’S GOOD TO GROW YOUR OWN VEGGIES. IT’S CHEAPER THAN BUYING THEM AT THE SHOP AND MORE FRESH.”

~ Community Assistant, Yakanarra
MONITORING AND EVALUATION

As an outcomes-driven organisation, EON constantly strives to assess program impact and make continuous improvements. We monitor evidence of program success through independent evaluation, a comprehensive Monitoring and Evaluation Program and continuous community engagement.

The information derived from Monitoring and Evaluation provides evidence of the achievements of the Thriving Communities Program as well as highlighting opportunities for improvement.

At commencement of the Thriving Communities Program, baseline information is obtained for all communities through surveys, interviews and student questionnaires which are then used as a comparison for interval data collected mid-way through the program, and again just prior to the community/school completing the program.

The data capture includes:

- Student surveys to assess the knowledge, attitudes and behaviours of participants; and
- Stakeholder interviews to collect qualitative data from the teachers, Principals, Community Assistants and Health Service Partners connected to the Program.

Monitoring and Evaluation results to date have notably demonstrated:

- Long-term positive behavioural changes relating to food and health,
- Increased attendance and engagement of children at school; and
- Training and employment opportunities for adult community members.

This year we undertook baseline surveys in our new communities in the Murchison and the Big Rivers Region and interval surveys in our Central Kimberley and East Pilbara communities.

“THE GARDENS ARE SO GREAT – THEY ARE THRIVING. THEY MAKE SUCH A NICE ATMOSPHERE AT THE SCHOOL. THE VIBE OF THE SCHOOL BEING GREEN IS GREAT FOR THE KIDS’ MENTAL HEALTH AND IT’S GREAT TO HAVE FOOD THROUGH THE COOKING CLASS”.

– School Principal, Yiyili
EDN operates in or has completed its program in 38 communities across Australia.

We currently deliver the program to 12 communities in WA, across the Kimberley, Pilbara and Murchison regions and to 12 communities in the NT across Groote Eylandt and the Big Rivers Region.

A number of communities in the West Kimberley have completed the program but continue to receive mentoring support with EDN visiting once a term to provide advice and practical assistance.

EDN only works with schools and communities that invite us in and agree to work with EDN for up to five years to achieve sustainability.
During the reporting period, EON completed its extensive desktop and on-the-ground research of the Northern Territory communities on its waiting list to assess those that would most likely fulfill its criteria for the program. Once a number of communities in the Big Rivers region had been considered and after numerous visits to ascertain readiness for the program, EON identified the 9 communities best suited to the program.

In December 2018 EON was fortunate to receive confirmation of funding from the Australian Government Department of Health that enabled us to expand the EON Thriving Communities Program into these 9 communities.

The EON Thriving Communities program is now being delivered at Barunga, Bulman, Jilkmingan, Manyallaluk, Minyerri, Ngukurr, Pine Creek, Urapunga and Wugularr (Beswick).

Each of these communities is unique and we have been flexible and adaptive in our approach to program delivery. For example, Ngukurr, a large and busy school with over 250 students is receiving the program on a weekly rather than fortnightly basis.
JENNY HURSE IS EON’S NATIONAL OPERATIONS MANAGER/NT MANAGER AND ELIZA WOOD IS OUR WA OPERATIONS MANAGER

With our expansion we restructured our Operations Management for greater efficiency. EON’s Operations Manager was promoted to National Operations Manager/NT Manager and relocated to Katherine in February 2019 to manage the newly recruited NT team and provide national oversight. Former Central Kimberley Project Manager Eliza Wood was promoted to WA Operations Manager and now takes responsibility for strategic operations in WA and the management of all WA based Project Managers.
With funding support from the Australian Government Department of Health, the communities of Jarlmadangah Burru, Yakanarra and Yiyili have continued to embrace the EON Thriving Communities Program where the edible gardens are growing well.

EON focused on continually improving the existing gardens to ensure regular production and increased engagement with and food supply for the school students. Garden infrastructure in these communities was maintained, repaired or upgraded as necessary.

EON delivered regular classes in cooking, nutrition and gardening on a fortnightly basis throughout the year at Yakanarra and Yiyili. Previously, due to very low student numbers EON reduced its visits to Jarlmadangah Burru to deliver classes. However, student numbers at the school increased during 2018/2019, warranting a return to fortnightly visits. The Jarlmadangah garden continued to expand steadily with plantings of fruit trees and the development of annual beds.

Jarlmadangah has had some challenges in the community due to a large change-over of community members. However there is now some stability and a renewed energy in the community.

At Yakanarra EON continued to liaise with Nindilingarri Cultural Health Nutritionists to coordinate nutrition lessons and menus at the school to ensure consistent health and nutrition messages were delivered to children and their families. EON Community Assistant Erika Wells helped enormously with keeping the garden well maintained between the Project Manager’s visits.

At Yiyili EON continued to receive outstanding support from local men Tyrone Hand and Shannon “Lee” Vanbee in the maintenance of the school garden.

At Bidyadanga the fruit and vegetable garden at La Grange Remote Community School was maintained by the students as part of their health classes. Once a term EON ran healthy eating and edible garden classes, with the students enthusiastically participating in gardening and cooking activities. Louis Yanawana, our local Community Assistant, continued to be employed by EON to assist with garden maintenance.

At Djarindjin Lombadina, the EON garden at Christ the King Catholic School was moved in 2018 to a more visible and convenient location at the front of the school, next to the Hospitality Centre.

The garden was maintained by the students, school gardener, and the secondary school teacher and used every week by various classes. EON visited once a term and delivered healthy eating and edible garden classes to both junior and senior students. Similarly at Beagle Bay, EON visited the Sacred Heart School once a term to deliver classes.

At One Arm Point EON’s community garden next to the Women’s Centre continued to thrive. EON Community Assistant Arnold Mackenzie maintained the garden, visiting on a regular basis to weed, prune and monitor the irrigation. EON visited One Arm Point once a term to stock the garden with plants and seeds and to troubleshoot any issues with Arnold.
THE PILBARA

- SOUTH HEDLAND, WARRALONG & YANDEYARRA

Thanks to funding support from BHP, the EON Thriving Communities program continued at South Hedland, Warralang and Yandeyarra.

EON delivered classes in cooking, nutrition and gardening on a fortnightly basis throughout the year at South Hedland Primary School, teaching Kinder to Grade 5, and also delivered lessons at Gumala Early Childhood Centre.

Edible garden classes included lessons on preparing compost, clearing the garden and planting while healthy eating classes focused on the theme of “hidden sugar” in food and drinks.

The school garden at South Hedland Primary School continued to thrive and produced high quality yields of fresh fruit and vegetables. In September the school was announced the winner of the Best Schools/Daycare Veggie Patch category at the ‘Care for Hedland Environmental Association’ 2018 Great Gardens competition awards night. The award acknowledged the strong partnership between the school and EON to establish and maintain the sustainable gardens.

Jillian Fisher worked alongside the Project Manager, with Taryn Watkins confidently supporting EON as a Community Assistant, helping with both garden maintenance and lesson delivery.

With a large number of children at the school now receiving nutrition education, EON took steps to increase parental knowledge and involvement to encourage reinforcement of nutrition messages at home. For example, in September EON initiated an “open garden” event for Father’s Day and invited the community in, enabling attendees to learn more about the program.

Regular visits, classes and workshops also continued at Warralang (Strelley Community School) and Yandeyarra. School staff were very supportive of EON’s work and provided valuable input to the program.

New houses for the community were constructed at Warralang and EON assisted with establishing plantings at these houses.

The community garden flourished and generated some great interest from community members with plantings including snake beans, sweet potatoes, sweet corn and broccolini.

Community Assistants Anthony Ginger, Steven Yabbie and Elronce Wonadon enthusiastically assisted EON’s Project Manager with caring for the gardens.

At Yandeyarra time was spent working on the school garden, adding manure, compost and ensuring regular crop rotation with the growing area being extended. In recent times the school has become more of a focal point for the community, with the school garden being made accessible to community members. In October a banana plantation was planted at the entrance to the school as part of the EON Horticulture Certificate, with training delivered to the senior students.

Community Assistants Leuwyn Tinker and Aarron Paton ably assisted the Project Manager in maintaining the edible gardens, ensuring continuous production.

In recent times it has been more challenging to secure Community Assistants at Yandeyarra as many community members have departed due to issues with the station.

EON continued to successfully work in partnership with Pilbara Population Health and Foodbank WA in our Pilbara communities to deliver jointly planned food and nutrition workshops with consistent health messages.

“The kids in community absolutely love the work they get to do with EON. They are always raving about what they have grown in the garden and sharing how they have used different ingredients when cooking healthy meals for their class. During recess and lunch the kids will often show us their EON edible garden, demonstrating how proud they are of what they have helped grow.”

- Foodbank WA Team (Pilbara).
EAST PILBARA

- MARBLE BAR, NULLAGINE & JIGALONG

Australian Government Department of Health funding allowed EON to deliver its program to Marble Bar, Nullagine and Jigalong.

EON continued to nurture strong relationships with the three communities and made fortnightly visits to deliver lessons and work on the garden.

Healthy eating lessons have focused on being aware of fat, sugar and salt in foods.

The school gardens at Marble Bar have flourished, and produce was regularly harvested with new plants continually added from production in the shadehouse. The Project Manager has been confidently assisted by Community Assistant Alfred Spratt.

There were some water issues at Nullagine which temporarily affected the EON garden. While these were addressed, seeds were planted in the shade house at Marble Bar and brought across to Nullagine when ready to plant out.

The garden at Jigalong continued to grow well with the students enthusiastically harvesting a vast range of produce including eggplant, broccoli, capsicum, cabbage, orange, lemon, tomato, chilli, corn, eggplant, snake beans, herbs, cucumber, watermelon, radish, pumpkin, rockmelon, sweet potato, cauliflower and peas.

In the East Pilbara EON collaborated on a school holiday program with Ngurra Kujungka (who lead the Western Desert’s community-driven sports program) and with other stakeholders including Mission Australia, Jigalong Police, Nullagine Police, Jigalong Department of Child Protection, the Jigalong Health Clinic and the BHP Big Shed. EON also jointly delivered a school holiday program with Desert Feet with over 60 children attending over a 3-day period.

EON continued to work in partnership with Foodbank WA and Pilbara Population Health to formulate nutrition training and workshop plans for the Marble Bar, Nullagine and Jigalong communities.

EON has also collaborated with a large number of organisations running complementary programs to engage and educate the local community and children, including World Vision, Pilbara Disability Advocacy, Martumili Artists, the Shire of East Pilbara, the Marble Bar and Nullagine Community Resource Centre, Kanyirninga Jukurrpa Rangers, North Regional TAFE, the Australian Army, Fair Game, Royal Life Saving Society WA and the Pilbara Meta Aboriginal Corporation.

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Thanks to funding from the WA Department of Communities, along with support from Sandfire Resources, Ramelius Resources and the Shire of Mount Magnet, EON is now partnered with three communities in the Murchison, namely Meekatharra, Mount Magnet and Yalgoo. These communities commenced the EON Thriving Communities Program towards the end of 2018, with Sustainability Agreements being signed in July 2018 (Mount Magnet) and August 2018 (Meekatharra).

There were some initial challenges in completing the Sustainability Agreement with Yalgoo, primarily due to the absence in community of the appropriate Elder to sign the plan. As community commitment is vital to the sustainability of the project, it was important the Sustainability Agreement was executed appropriately. Fortunately, the key Elder required to sign on behalf of the community was able to do so in May 2019.

With the appointment of a dedicated Project Manager in early 2019, the program is now well underway at the three communities.

EON planned the garden design in consultation with each community/school and garden beds and associated infrastructure were installed in all three communities.

At Meekatharra EON worked both with existing garden beds inside the school garden area as well as installing raised garden beds. With the installation of reticulation towards the end of Term 2, crop planting increased and the gardens are flourishing.

At Mount Magnet the rear garden was cleared and made ready for planting with the assistance of Yulella Aboriginal Corporation (Community Development Program workers) and Midwest TAFE. Yulella has been very supportive of EON’s work at Mount Magnet; during this exercise the team removed all existing structures, created garden beds for the classes, added horse manure/blood and bone to the soil and built a small shadehouse.

At Yalgoo where program commencement was delayed for the reasons outlined above, progress is not quite as advanced, however EON built a small garden in the middle of the school where an assortment of vegetables has been planted.

The students in all three communities have embraced EON’s healthy eating and edible garden classes with a wonderful energy and enthusiasm and have enjoyed taking home samples of fresh produce from the garden to cook and consume at home.

The garden installed by EON in the pre-primary area has flourished and the children enjoyed watching the garden grow. With the help of students the Project Manager planted broccoli, bok choy, sweet potato, corn, carrots, dill and beans.

The students in all three communities have embraced EON’s healthy eating and edible garden classes with a wonderful energy and enthusiasm and have enjoyed taking home samples of fresh produce from the garden to cook and consume at home.
The EON Program is being delivered to three remote Aboriginal communities on Groote Eylandt, thanks to an invitation and funding from the Traditional Owners, the Anindilyakwa Land Council (ALC) and Groote Eylandt and Bickerton Island Enterprises (GEBIE).

The island’s schools, children and families of Angurugu, Umbakumba and Milyakburra continued to work enthusiastically with EON’s Project Manager.

The gardens in each of the communities are thriving and fortnightly edible garden and healthy eating lessons were held in each school. Produce from the garden was used in the lessons with the students, the Families as First Teachers/preschool mothers and children and in other adult healthy eating lessons. Fresh garden produce was distributed to community members via school staff, Community Development Program (CDP) participants and other visitors to the garden.

The Project Manager also assisted the School Nutrition Program, providing innovative ideas to kitchen staff for nutritious meals using the garden produce.

EON continued to maintain and build strong relationships with local agencies and organisations including “Bush Fit Mob”, GEBIE CDP administrators, the Groote Eylandt Aboriginal Trust market garden, East Arnhem Sport and Recreation and the Groote Eylandt Language Centre. These partnerships have assisted in the reinforcement of EON’s key health and nutrition messages.

At Umbakumba EON was confidently assisted by Community Assistants Ezra Mamarika, Ronson Wurrramarra and also Neville Bara whose valuable contribution included building a shade shelter with the help of the CDP, utilising local wild-harvested stringy bark.

At Angurugu EON was enthusiastically supported by Community Assistants Antonia Nundhirribala, Gycelle Amagula, Sherena Wurrramarra and Vieren Lalara, while at Milyakburra Community Assistants Lucinda Bara and Ninette Lalara assisted the Project Manager with her work.
The teachers and students at both Pine Creek and Manyallaluk schools have keenly embraced the EON program and provided great support to the Project Manager.

EON delivered fortnightly lessons to students aged from kinder up to grade 6. Edible garden classes focused on the seasons and their impact on the garden, vegetable growth and harvesting, garden pests, disease and soil health.

Healthy eating classes focused on consuming less salt, fat and sugar. Cooking classes were particularly successful with nutritious meals sent home to the students’ families on a regular basis. The students enjoyed learning how to make easy, healthy snacks and meals such as fruit kebabs, chicken wraps and salads.

At Pine Creek School raised garden beds were established with reticulation, soil, compost and hay. The beds were planted out with a variety of vegetables, including pumpkin, tomatoes, corn, zucchini, beans, peas, lettuce and bok choy. Two gardens near the school kitchen were also planted out with herbs, including parsley, coriander and dill. EON nurtured the established fruit trees, adding nutrients to the soil and improving the reticulation system.

The fruit, vegetables and herbs were harvested on a daily basis by the school students.

At Manyallaluk school raised garden beds were established and a wide range of vegetables as well as a variety of herbs were planted. The vegetables have grown extremely well, despite the challenges of both hungry crows and the occasional buffalo poking its head over the fence to enjoy a free feed!

EON maintained the established fruit trees, harvesting lemons, grapefruit and jack fruit.

At Barunga school, where the program commenced late in Term 1 2019, EON lessons were integrated into the school timetable in Term 2. With the help of the students EON constructed 5 raised garden beds at the school and subsequently layered these with compost, hay and soil and installed reticulation. The raised garden beds were then planted out with various vegetables including corn, tomatoes, beans, peas, herbs, lettuce, chillies, kangkong, cabbage and carrots.

As with the other schools, healthy eating lessons have focused on consuming less salt, fat and sugar and the concept of “fresh is best”. Cooking classes delivered to students were limited in number as the establishment of a productive garden was the initial priority. However, EON regularly provided advice to the school kitchen staff regarding what vegetables to harvest when, and practical instructions regarding the best methods for cooking particular produce.
At Jilkminggan and Minyerri schools EON taught classes on a fortnightly basis to students ranging from the Families as First Teachers and children [infants to age 3] all the way up to year 12.

EON’s healthy eating lessons focused on the need to reduce sugar intake, why fresh is best, recommended daily servings of fruit and vegetables, healthy sources of protein and the importance of regular water consumption.

At Jilkminggan EON established 4 large garden beds and 2 small round garden beds at the school, 2 in-ground pumpkin and watermelon patches, a herb garden, sweet potato at the entrance to the garden, a bower shed with climbing passionfruit and a homemade compost area.

Together with Sunrise Health and Jawoyn Rangers, EON collaborated with Roper Gulf Regional Council, participating in one of the community’s AOD days (Alcohol and Other Drugs) with Mataranka Police. AOD forums provide an opportunity for the children to learn about the detrimental effects of alcohol and other drugs.

EON participated in a session with the theme of “addiction” to talk about dietary elements that may be addictive such as caffeine and sugar. To showcase an alternative to sugar, EON’s Project Manager baked sugar free scones using almond meal, served with sugar free juipi jam.

EON also successfully partnered with the local CDP who assisted with the construction of the bower shed over a communal seating area for community members to enjoy.

At the entrance to Minyerri school EON planted out 4 garden beds with vegetables. Alawa Aboriginal Corporation assisted with the construction by donating unused bricks left over from houses being built, while Hodgson Downs station provided manure. In the preschool area, EON utilised the garden beds already in place, connecting reticulation and growing vegetables including snake beans, cabbage, lettuce and corn.

The local CDP ably assisted the Project Manager, digging the trenches for the community garden at the front of the school and placing in all the pipe for the reticulation.
The teachers and students at both Ngukurr and Urapunga schools have enthusiastically received the program with EON’s Project Manager having forged strong relationships with these communities.

At Ngukurr EON established a large school garden, a series of raised garden beds in the early childhood centre area as well as micro gardens which are used as a class-based tool for learning. The senior students helped assemble the large school garden and also enjoyed utilising the newly installed greenhouse where seedlings are propagated each week. EON delivered healthy eating and edible garden lessons to 8 classes each week (primary and secondary) as well as delivering weekly classes at the early childhood centre. With the gardens producing well, EON has been able to harvest fresh produce from the garden for use in cooking classes. The Senior boys at the school were tasked with assisting with the design and build of an outdoor EON kitchen area and proudly took ownership of this project which aligns with their pathways curriculum and provides them with practical training.

The Senior girls confidently assisted the Project Manager in the delivery of classes at the early childhood centre by preparing a large number of nutritious meals under EON’s guidance. See further at page 43-45.

At Urapunga the EON gardens are thriving. EON’s Community Assistant, Leon Duncan, has taken ownership of the garden and worked hard in the early phases of establishment. With the aid of the local CDP, Leon also assisted with constructing a bower shed over the garden to keep out the crows. The school students at Urapunga particularly enjoyed their fortnightly cooking and food preparation classes, learning how to bulk up meals using fresh produce and providing input as to what sort of healthy meals they would like to create. While the main garden provided a steady supply of vegetables, within the class the students also planted and experimented with micro garden stations each week, giving them a sense of responsibility and ownership as they cared for their seedlings.
At the time EDN was negotiating Sustainability Agreements with Beswick and Bulman, temporary Principals had been appointed to the schools in these communities and EDN was unable to secure the necessary long-term commitment to the program until permanent leadership was in place. As a result, these communities experienced a delayed program start, with Sustainability Agreements being signed in March (Beswick) and May (Bulman) 2019. Since commencement the Project Manager has established strong relationships with the communities and completed garden design and planning. The garden site at Bulman was agreed after a period of consultation and negotiation and construction of the garden is underway. At Beswick the existing but neglected community garden was reinvigorated and there is much community interest in EDN continuing to assist in restoring it to its former glory. In both communities, seeds and cuttings have also been planted into existing beds at the school or into pots in the shadehouse. Peanuts and mung beans were planted as green manure into the garden beds to activate more growing areas. EDN also planted vegetables such as sweet potatoes, pumpkin and tomatoes to harvest with the students, while also planting tropical perennials in line with the growing season. Healthy eating and edible garden classes were delivered on a fortnightly basis to all classes at the schools from pre-primary through to senior students. Students enthusiastically assisted with gardening tasks such as potting seeds up in the nursery and were encouraged to take seedlings home to generate interest in the program from their families. The teachers at both Bulman and Beswick schools have enthusiastically incorporated the garden and cooking into their own programs in between EDN’s visits.
GET TO KNOW OUR COMMUNITY ASSISTANTS

An important part of the EON Thriving Communities Program is providing employment and training to local community members. This benefits them, provides strong role models, and is an important step in program sustainability.

In the last year EON employed 21 Aboriginal people as Community Assistants.

EON’s Community Assistants champion the EON Program by:

• providing a link between EON and the community,
• helping to build trust through their connection with the program,
• working alongside EON Project Managers to grow healthy fruit, vegetables and bush tucker,
• taking ownership, over time, for ensuring community gardens thrive and are continuously planted and cropped,
• transferring the skills learned through the program to build home gardens; and
• sharing their knowledge across community.

With the knowledge and experience gained through the EON Thriving Communities Program, our Community Assistants are able to maintain community gardens – a fundamental step towards a sustainable source of fresh, healthy food for school children and their families long after completion of the EON program.

Leon Duncan

“I am a Urapunga man. I am a Dad of 6 kids, 4 go to school at Urapunga, the other 2 stay back at camp and help me look after the little ones. I love hunting, fishing and gardening. I first learnt about EON when Donna (EON Project Manager) came out and told me about it. I think growing a Community Garden in Urapunga is great for our community and also great for our kids to learn where good food comes from. It will also be good cause buying food from the shop can sometimes be very expensive. I really want to make the garden very big and grow as much food as possible. I want the bees to come in and then we can get sugar bag too. I want the garden to go forever so Urapunga mob always have good food.”

- COMMUNITY ASSISTANT, URAPUNGA
Stephen Mason

“I am from the Kariyarra language group on the coast. I have one child at Marble Bar school and one at Port Hedland - I heard about EON through the school at Marble Bar and now I am a Community Assistant at the school. The EON program I think benefits the kids with healthy cooking and healthy eating. I love the food we get from the garden, especially the chillies. I love the process of start to finish in the garden and just everything about gardening. I like working with Share (EON Project Manager) because I learn on the job and am skilling up. At Marble Bar I also work as the school gardener and as an all-rounder and handyman. When I’m not working I love to go camping, prospecting, and hunting. My time in the garden time is therapeutic and it’s an achievement when things start to grow.”

- Community Assistant, Marble Bar

Steven Yabbie

“I’m 37 years old and I am a Martu man. I heard about the EON program through Anthony (EON Project Manager) and I have worked with EON for over a year. It’s a good program and gets us and the kids out in the garden. I work in the gardens in the mornings twice a week. I like planting foods and all the plants - my favourite is the tomatoes. I do all sorts of garden maintenance - tidying up, planting, watering and cutting the grass. What I like best is getting the gardens growing. When I’m not working, I like to go fishing and hunting and I like spending time with family.”

- Community Assistant, Warralong

 freshwater and veggies straight from the garden tastes better than buying them from the shops. I was amazed at what can grow here. I learned a lot of things from EON I didn’t know before - like how to grow the plants and how best to cut and cook them. I’ve noticed the kids here eating more fruit and vegetables. When there’s a shortage of food at home we know we can go to the garden.”

- Community Assistant, Yandeyarra
"NOT ONLY ARE THE STUDENTS LEARNING VALUABLE KITCHEN SKILLS, INCLUDING STORAGE AND HANDLING OF FOOD AND PREPARATION SUCH AS CUTTING AND COOKING, THEY ARE ABLE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE CENTRE AND HELP OUT THEIR COMMUNITY BY PREPARING FOOD. THIS INCLUDES HEALTHY AND NUTRITIOUS DISHES FOR THE FAMILIES AS FIRST TEACHERS (FAFT) AND PLAYGROUP CHILDREN AND CARERS."

– Teacher, Ngukurr

EDN’s Project Manager has been delivering healthy eating and cooking lessons once a week to the Senior Girls at Ngukurr.

The students are enjoying learning new skills and are growing in confidence each week.

During the classes the students prepare healthy snacks and meals for the “Mums and Bubs” in the Families as First Teachers program.
“My family is from Ngukurr. I am 14 years old and I have two brothers and three sisters. I’ve learnt how to cook with Owen (EON Project Manager). The garden is a good idea- so we can go and pick some veggies to cook! My favourite food to eat from the garden is mangoes.”

“My family is from Queensland originally. I am 15 years old. I grew up in Ngukurr and I have five sisters and one brother. My two little sisters and my nephew also go to school here. My dreaming is a Mermaid. Cooking and gardening is my favourite part of the week - I really enjoy it. Owen (EON Project Manager) teaches me how to cook. I like the wraps, stew and chicken curry. I also do gardening at home. We have a bush medicine plant- eucalyptus. We drink it (we put the leaves in hot water and boil it till they go brown), then have a shower and it helps us feel better. When I’m not at school I like to clean up at home and take my puppy for a walk!”

“My family is from Ngukurr, except my mum’s side is from different country. I am 14 years old and I have a brother who is 13. I think the EON garden is a good thing. Friday mornings are good! The wraps are healthy to eat. We cook with the vegetables from the garden. Tomatoes are my favourite. The EON program is more fun than class!”

“THE FEEDBACK FROM THE CHILDCARE STAFF, PLAYGROUP PARENTS AND STAFF HAS BEEN VERY POSITIVE! THIS IS A WORTHWHILE AND VALUABLE EXPERIENCE FOR THE GIRLS AND I AM SURE WILL BE BENEFICIAL FOR FUTURE CAREER/EMPLOYMENT PATHS, SUCH AS HOSPITALITY.”

- Senior Girls Teacher, Ngukurr.
COLLABORATIONS

EON Project Managers have had great success working in partnership with agencies and other organisations working in our communities, often running joint classes, workshops, holiday programs and developing collaborative projects. We have signed MOUs with several complementary service providers including Pilbara Population Health and Foodbank and share resources with these partners.

It has also been exciting for EON to develop a range of partnerships with Aboriginal owned corporations and associations across both Western Australia and the Northern Territory. For example, in the Big Rivers Region of the NT EON collaborated with Sunrise Aboriginal Corporation to deliver health and nutrition classes together in the schools and communities. Similarly in WA, EON partnered with Nindiringarri Health Services to deliver classes at Yiyili school.

EON collaborated successfully with Community Development Program (CDP) providers, including Yulella Aboriginal Corporation, Ashburton Aboriginal Corporation (WA) and Yugul Mangi Development Aboriginal Corporation, Jilkminggan Community Aboriginal Corporation, Rise, Urupunga Aboriginal Corporation, Alawa Aboriginal Corporation and Roper Gulf Regional Council (NT), with CDP participants providing valuable assistance to our Project Managers.

Other service providers with whom we have collaborated or partnered with in Western Australia include: North Regional TAFE, Mission Australia, Boab Health, Bloodwood, Child Australia, and CSIRO Science Pathways.

Additional service providers with whom we have collaborated or partnered with in the Northern Territory include: Food Ladder, Families as First Teachers (FAFT), Stronger Communities for Children (SCFC) and NT Friendship & Support.

EON also maintains regular contact with other organisations working in the same field such as Diabetes WA, Earbus and the Heart Foundation.

IN NOVEMBER ONE OF OUR SUCCESSFUL PILBARA PARTNERSHIPS WAS ACKNOWLEDGED WHEN EON FOUNDATION AND PILBARA POPULATION HEALTH WERE RUNNERS-UP IN THE WA HEALTH EXCELLENCE AWARDS.

"EON’S STRONG EXISTING PARTNERSHIPS WITH THE PILBARA COMMUNITIES WHERE THEY WORK ENABLES US TO EASILY LINK INTO THESE COMMUNITIES VIA EON’S ESTABLISHED RELATIONSHIP. OUR PARTNERSHIP PROVIDES AN EFFECTIVE LINK BETWEEN NUTRITION EDUCATION AND THE EDIBLE GARDENS. THE EON PROJECT MANAGER’S PASSION IS CONTAGIOUS TO THE CHILDREN WHO ARE GENUINELY INTERESTED IN HIS TEACHINGS. TEACHERS HAVE OFTEN REMARKED THAT THE KIDS WILL COME TO SCHOOL TODAY BECAUSE THEY KNOW THEY’LL BE COOKING WITH EON”.

– Pilbara Population Health

"THE EON FOUNDATION PARTNERSHIP WITH OUR SCHOOL HAS BEEN ADVANTAGEOUS FOR MANY REASONS. CHILDREN, AS WELL AS THE BROADER COMMUNITY ARE TAUGHT FROM A YOUNG AGE THE IMPORTANCE OF EDIBLE PLANTS IN OUR COMMUNITY AS A SOURCE OF FRESH, NUTRITIOUS FOOD. THERE IS A REAL EXCITEMENT IN THE STUDENTS WHEN THEY SEE EON ARRIVE. THE EON LESSONS, WHETHER IN CLASS OR OUTSIDE HAVE BEEN FANTASTIC LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES THAT THE CHILDREN REALLY TAKE ONBOARD”.

– Teacher, Strelley Community School, Warralong
WHAT’S NEXT

GROW MORE GARDENS, GROW MORE FOOD AND GROW OUR IMPACT

The EON Thriving Communities Program expanded significantly in 2018/2019 with the commencement of three new communities in WA and nine new communities in the NT, but our waiting list of communities that have requested to join the program remains long as new communities continue to reach out to us. We will keep trying to raise the funds to meet this demand and improve the outcomes for children in remote Aboriginal communities.

Priorities for 2019/2020 will include:

• Consolidate the program in the Big Rivers Region in the Northern Territory and in the Murchison in Western Australia, including maximising our Community Development Program partnerships.
• Increase our focus on the educational needs of very young children and teenagers.
• Secure more funding to reach more communities, supporting healthier lives for more school children and their families across remote Western Australia and the Northern Territory.
• Keep expanding the scope and impact of the program in existing communities through garden expansion, employment of local assistants and more tailored nutrition education and horticultural training.
• Continue supporting communities to reach self-sustainability after 5 years of the EON Program.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

CLOSING THE ABORIGINAL HEALTH GAP CANNOT BE ACHIEVED WITH SHORT-TERM SOLUTIONS.

Better nutrition, early in life, can deliver a generational improvement in Aboriginal health and help break the cycle of low engagement in education and employment.

Implementing our strategic priorities in 2019/2020 requires secure funding. We invite you to be part of a sustainable solution to support generational change through:

Philanthropy
Philanthropy is a vital part of the EON Foundation. It is only with the support of individuals, trusts, foundations and bequests that we are able to deliver our EON Thriving Communities Program effectively and expand to new remote communities where the need for food security and nutrition is greatest.

Corporate Partnership
Becoming a funding partner of the EON Thriving Communities Program provides a genuine opportunity to support generational change in remote Aboriginal communities, improving the health, educational potential and economic opportunities of children and community members. EON can tailor corporate sponsorship packages to suit a corporate partner’s needs.

Workplace Giving
EON’s Workplace Giving program enables employees from companies to make small, regular donations to charity each month from pre-tax dollars via company payroll.

In-Kind Support
EON welcomes resources or specialist knowledge or skills that align with its work.

Fundraising
Choosing EON as the charity of choice for an individual or organisational fundraising activity or challenge is a great way to support EON’s Program.

Donate
Your regular donation helps EON deliver its Thriving Communities Program to remote Aboriginal communities wanting to improve the health and education outcomes of their young people.

If you would like to talk about partnering with or supporting EON through corporate sponsorship, workplace giving, in-kind support or philanthropy, please contact:

Marie-Louise Carroll
Executive Manager
Tel: (08) 9381 5403
Email: Marie-Louise.Carroll@eon.org.au
Address: Suite 2, 245 Churchill Avenue, Subiaco WA 6008

If you would like to donate to EON, please go to our website at: www.eon.org.au/donate

EON has Deductible Gift Receipt status so all donations over $2 are tax deductible.

“As a teacher of 27 years and a mum, I understand what children need for a healthy lifestyle. I read that it’s often difficult or expensive for families to buy fresh produce in the more remote parts of WA, so growing food is the answer. The activities that the children participate in through EON provide learning experiences for life.

I love seeing the photos of the kids eating their vegetables and the delight on their faces”.

– EON Foundation Donor
Financial Overview 2018/2019

Operating Result
Income for the year to 30 June 2019 was $2,025.0k compared with $1,544.8k in 2017-18, representing a year-on-year increase in revenue of 31.1%. Expenditure was $1,853.2k in the period compared to $1,283.1k in 2017-18, increasing 44.4%. As a result, EON recorded a net surplus of $171.8k for the 2018-19 financial year, versus $261.7k in the prior year.

The revenue increase in the year is primarily driven by new funding from the Australian Government Department of Health, which allowed the implementation of the EON Thriving Communities program at nine new communities in the Northern Territory, whilst new income from several different funding sources permitted the commencement of operations at three communities in the Murchison Region of Western Australia. Higher income was also recognised to reflect the impact of a full year of operations at three communities on Groote Eylandt in the Northern Territory (funded by Groote Eylandt and Bickerton Island Enterprises (GEBIE)). The 2018-19 surplus largely reflects general donations and interest received in the year, which will be mainly allocated to fund ongoing support to communities which have completed the full EON program, along with further program development.

EON continued to maintain a strong focus on cost control, partly assisted by strong support from a number of suppliers who provide pro bono or heavily discounted administrative and professional services. We wish to express our gratitude for their ongoing support and acknowledge them on page 53.

How Eon Is Funded

- 52% Federal Government Grants
- 14% Aboriginal Land Councils
- 5% State Government Grants
- 17% Other Grants (Including Corporate)
- 10% Donations
- 2% Other Income

How The Funding Is Expended

- 61% Labour Costs
- 11% Administrative Costs
- 2% Consultancy Costs
- 18% Remote Access Costs
- 8% Program Costs

EON continued to achieve funding diversity in 2018-19, with a variety of funding partners from different sources.
Federal government funding increased from 34% in 2017-18 to 52% in 2018-19, reflecting the additional funding from the Australian Government Department of Health, to expand operations into the Big Rivers Region of the Northern Territory.
The State Government of Western Australia continued to support EON in 2018-19 through a funding agreement with the Department of Communities to support EON’s work in the Murchison region of Western Australia. The contribution to overall funding decreased from 11% in 2017-18 to 5% in 2018-19 as the prior year funding related to a contract with the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development which ended in 2017-18.
Aboriginal Land Councils (GEBIE) contributed 14% of total income in 2018-19 (versus 8% in 2017-18), which reflects a full year of the program in Groote Eylandt in 2018-19.
Other Grants contributed 17% of income (versus 23% in 2017-18), which included ongoing funding partners such as BHP, Mundaring Global Foundation and the Swiss Celebrate Life Foundation, along with Lotterywest, Sandfire Resources NL and Ramelius Resources.
12% of EON’s funding in 2018-19 came from donations and other income, which includes philanthropic donations from the Bass Family Foundation, donations from members of the public, income from fundraising activities, workplace giving programs with Chevron and ATCO Gas, bequests and interest earned on unspent funds. Donations and other income reduced from 24% in 2017-18, due to a large one-off general donation in the prior year.
EON is grateful to all its financial supporters who are acknowledged on pages 53-54.

Labour costs - salaries and oncosts for Project Managers, Community Assistants, management and administrative staff. EON’s program is labour intensive due to fortnightly community visits by Project Managers.
Remote access costs - travel, accommodation, fuel and maintenance of vehicles.
Administrative costs - includes office costs, insurance, IT and communication costs, marketing, audit and accounting fees.
Program costs - infrastructure and materials required to create and maintain EON’s edible gardens, along with ongoing program resources, materials and supplies.
Consultancy - engagement of consultants to provide advice and expertise in areas such as horticulture, education and due diligence.
Thank you

We would like to thank the many individuals who have supported EON including our Board members, our Ambassador Rishelle Hume AM, and those who have made donations in support of our work. We are also immensely grateful to our partners who have helped us achieve such ambitious outcomes.

None of the work we do would be possible without this support so thank you for placing your trust in us and investing in our programs. EON is thankful to the many organisations who have provided pro-bono or significantly subsidised professional services in support of our work. In particular we wish to thank and acknowledge our pro bono legal advisors, Clayton Utz.

Partners and Supporters

EON Foundation is sincerely thankful for the support of our 2018/2019 funding partners, corporate supporters and generous donors without whom we would not exist.

Principal Funding Partners

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Major Partners

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Program Partners

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In Kind Partners

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Share Greenwood | Project Manager, Pilbara (incoming)
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AUDITOR

Dry Kirkness

LOCAL COMMUNITY ASSISTANTS

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Lucinda Bara | Grote Eylandt
Neville Bara | Grote Eylandt
Sherena Wurrarama | Grote Eylandt
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