

EON Foundation



ANNUAL REPORT 2018

GROWING HEALTHY FOOD FOR HEALTHY LIVES

EON FOUNDATION WAS ESTABLISHED IN 2005 AND IS A NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANISATION, FOCUSED ON IMPROVING HEALTH AND PREVENTING DISEASE IN REMOTE ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES THROUGH IMPROVED NUTRITION.

We build edible gardens in remote Aboriginal schools and communities for a secure supply of fresh food, and partner with them to deliver a hands-on practical gardening, nutrition education, cooking and hygiene program.

Our innovative, grassroots **EON Thriving Communities Program** has been delivered with great success in **24** communities in the Kimberley and Pilbara regions of **Western Australia**. This year we commenced in **3** new communities on Groote Eylandt in the **Northern Territory**, with plans now underway to commence in a further **3** communities in the **Murchison** region in WA.

Demand for the program is high with a **waiting list** of communities in Western Australia and the Northern Territory hoping to join the Program soon.

OUR VISION

To make a lasting contribution in remote Aboriginal communities to the reduction of preventable and chronic disease caused by poor nutrition.

THE WAY WE WORK

The core values that guide the way we work include:

Trust – we value and seek to develop the trust of the communities in which we work and the trust of our funding partners who enable our work;

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

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

Adaptive – we are practical and innovative in our approach, constantly striving for improvement.

OUR MISSION

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



96% OF TEACHERS HAVE SEEN POSITIVE CHANGES IN THE ATTITUDES AND BEHAVIOURS OF STUDENTS AS A RESULT OF THE EON PROGRAM.

2017 Monitoring and Evaluation Report, EON Foundation Inc

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

- Delivered the EON Thriving Communities Program to **11 Western Australian Communities** - Warralong, Yandeyarra, South Hedland, Jigalong, Nullagine and Marble Bar in the Pilbara and Yakanarra, Yiyili, Jarlmadangah Burru, Warmun and Doon Doon in the Kimberley and provided exiting support to Djarindjin Lombadina, One Arm Point, Beagle Bay and Bidyadanga.
- Expanded into **Groote Eylandt in the Northern Territory** with the EON Thriving Communities Program commencing at Angurugu, Milyakburra and Umbakumba.
- Completed due diligence at Meekatharra and Mount Magnet in the **Murchison** with successful signing of Sustainability Plans.
- Launched the EON Thriving Communities Program **Monitoring and Evaluation Report**.
- Recognised and featured as a **successful case study in Closing the Gap** Prime Minister's Report 2018.
- Developed a suite of **training and educational materials** for use in communities, including nutrition and horticultural resources.
- Started due diligence for a further **11 communities** in the NT.
- **Employed 17 Aboriginal Community Assistants** and provided further paid casual work to local community members.
- Appointed **Rishelle Hume AM**, Western Australian of the Year (Aboriginal Category) 2016 and strong EON supporter, as an EON Ambassador.

OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS

During 2017/2018 EON Foundation delivered our EON Thriving Communities Program to:



“SINCE EON, THE FOOD I COOK IS HEALTHY AND I ALWAYS TRY AND PICK FROM THE GARDEN.”

– Local Community Assistant, Yandeyarra



REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

It is heartening to reflect on the priorities we set for the year and see that progress has been strong and steady. Our additional focus on employing more Community Assistants and growing more food has paid dividends.

In December 2017, the Hon Ken Wyatt AM MP, Indigenous Health Minister, launched EON's latest and most comprehensive Monitoring and Evaluation Report. The Report confirmed the effectiveness of our grassroots, collaborative, long-term approach, demonstrating that the EON Thriving Communities Program has a positive impact on health, school attendance, school engagement and attitudes towards health and nutrition. As an outcomes-driven organisation, this continuous assessment is vital and the Board is proud of the Report.

We are pleased to have completed due diligence in communities in the Murchison region of Western Australia. EON has signed Sustainability Plans, setting out the roles and responsibilities of both EON and the participating schools and communities at Meekatharra and Mount Magnet, and will soon sign up a third community. These communities have been seeking EON's involvement for some time so it is rewarding to be in a position to commit to partner with them.

This year we expanded our program into the Northern Territory for the first time. The EON Thriving Communities program is now being implemented in communities in Umbakumba, Milyakburra and Angurugu on Groote Eylandt.



2017/2018 HAS BEEN ANOTHER BUSY AND SUCCESSFUL YEAR FOR EON FOUNDATION.

This initiative is particularly significant as it is the first time in EON's 13 year history that we have received funding from a Land Council- the Anindilyakwa Land Council (ALC) and Groote Eylandt and Bickerton Island Enterprises (GEBIE). The schools and communities on Groote Eylandt have engaged with EON with enthusiasm and excitement and we look forward to bedding down the program in the coming year.

We developed new nutrition education materials, lesson plans and activities for use by the schools and EON Project Managers to maximise the impact of the EON Program. The new resources are already being used by EON Project Managers with great success in their classroom and garden lessons. The materials reinforce our key messages with regards to healthy eating and nutrition in a way that is entertaining, informative and appropriate for remote community children.

A further priority was the development of culturally appropriate training modules for our Project Managers to guide the training of EON's Community Assistants. We have created training modules across gardening, nutrition and healthy homes training which we look forward to rolling out.

While the gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal health remains high, we remain committed to growing more gardens and more fresh food to keep the children and communities we work with healthy, and prevent the diseases that impact participation at school and future employment.

Even with our expansion this year beyond the Kimberley and Pilbara 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 work hard 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 Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, the WA Department of Communities, Charlie and Sylvia Bass and Marion Tapper.

Thank you also to the pro bono EON Board and Advisory Panel, Perth staff, regional Project Managers and Community Assistants who share a passion to support generational change in health and nutrition in remote communities, and back their passion up with hard work, grit and resilience.

And enormous thanks to the enthusiastic, committed, hardworking children, teachers and families in the remote communities we partner with.

Caroline de Mori, Chair

WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO

- Aboriginal children experience a rate of nutritional anaemia and malnutrition thirty times higher than non-Aboriginal children and an eighteen times higher rate of childhood diabetes.
- 95% of Aboriginal children have an inadequate daily intake of fruit and vegetables.
- 49 kms is the average distance travelled by community members for fresh food supplies.
- The cost of a standard basket of food is 50-60% higher in remote communities, while the average income is 15-20% lower than in major cities.
- Hot chips, sugary drinks, high-fat processed meats, salty snacks and white bread are the highest contributors to calorific intake for remote Aboriginal children.
- Aboriginal Australians are two times more likely to report no usual fruit consumption and seven times more likely to report no usual vegetable consumption.

“I TELL NANNA TO USE THE GREEN STUFF FROM THE GARDEN IN OUR SALADS!”

- Student, 9 years, Nullagine

“IT MAKES ME FEEL GOOD WHEN WE’RE COOKING THE FOOD WE GROW. WE GET FOOD FOR BREAKFAST AND LUNCH. FRUIT KEBABS ARE MY FAVOURITE!”

- Student, 9 years, South Hedland



93%

OF CHILDREN IN REMOTE COMMUNITIES HAVE SOME FORM OF MIDDLE EAR INFECTION, ASSOCIATED WITH POOR NUTRITION.

19%

OF THE ABORIGINAL HEALTH GAP IS CAUSED BY POOR DIET, PARTICULARLY LOW FRUIT AND VEGETABLE CONSUMPTION.

For more information and reference to source information, please visit www.eon.org.au

“INSTEAD OF BUYING FROM THE SHOP WHERE THERE’S A LOT OF GREASE IN THE FOOD IT’S BETTER TO EAT THE FRESH FOOD STRAIGHT FROM THE GARDEN.”

- Community Member, Yandeyarra



A FRESH APPROACH

EON Foundation was established in 2005 in response to the Telethon Institute for Child Health Research Longitudinal Study into Aboriginal Child Health¹.

The EON Thriving Communities Program operates by **invitation only** from remote, Aboriginal communities. It is a hands-on gardening, cooking, nutrition education and hygiene 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 the community 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 to communities,
- Teaching children and adults in the community to grow their own food and prepare it in a healthy environment,
- Providing nutrition and health education to encourage healthy choices; and
- Providing training and mentoring to ensure sustainability.

¹Zubrick, S. R., Lawrence, D. M., Silburn, S. R., Blair, E., Milroy, H., Wilkes, T., Eades, S., D'Antoine, H., Read, A. W., Ishiguchi, P., & Doyle, S. (2004). The Health of Aboriginal Children and Young People [Volumes 1-4]. Perth: Telethon Institute for Child Health Research.

THE EON THRIVING COMMUNITIES PROGRAM IS UNIQUE IN AUSTRALIA

The EON Thriving Communities Program has four integrated components:

1. EON EDIBLE GARDENS

The establishment of a large vegetable, fruit and bush tucker garden in the community school. Children learn how to grow, and have access to, fresh produce. An EON Project Manager visits fortnightly during the school term to provide hands-on gardening, cooking and nutrition classes to school and pre-school children, their parents and other members of the community.

2. EON HEALTHY EATING

Use of the garden produce to deliver nutrition and cooking education – as part of the school timetable – as well as providing workshops for adults.

3. EON HEALTHY HOMES

Delivery of knowledge and tools to maintain healthier home environments and reduce communicable disease.

4. EON TRAINING AND EDUCATION

Formal and informal training to children and adults – to sustain the gardens and provide employment pathways.

MEASURING OUR IMPACT

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

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

As part of our ongoing Monitoring and Evaluation Program, in the latter half of 2017 EON completed the **2017 Monitoring and Evaluation Report**.

The Report outlines the findings of a landmark survey conducted by EON across 10 of the remote Aboriginal communities that have been participating in the EON Thriving Communities Program for between 6 months and three years. The survey involved more than 350 Aboriginal children, adult community members and teachers, and provides evidence of the impact and success of our grassroots EON Thriving Communities Program.

The Report's results notably demonstrate:

- long-term behaviour changes relating to food and health,
- improved health outcomes in participating students,
- increased attendance and engagement of children at school; and
- training and employment opportunities for adult community members.

This Report was launched on 12 December 2017 in Kings Park, Western Australia by the **Hon Ken Wyatt AM MP, Minister for Indigenous Health** and **EON Ambassador Ms Rishelle Hume AM**, 2016 winner of the Western Australian of the Year Award (Aboriginal Category).

A copy of the Report is available on the EON website.



FEEDBACK FROM PRINCIPALS AND TEACHERS

65% have seen improvements in the health of their students, since the school partnered with EON.

96% have seen positive changes in the attitudes and behaviours of students as a result of the EON Program.

57% of teachers believe that the EON Program has had a positive impact on student attendance at their school.

83% have used the EON Program as a basis for lessons in other learning areas.

EON Monitoring and Evaluation Program 2017

“WITH EON, I’VE LEARNT DIFFERENT WAYS OF COOKING, AND I’VE LEARNT MORE ABOUT GARDENING – WHICH I DIDN’T KNOW BEFORE. I KNOW HOW TO READ WHAT IS IN PACKED FOOD AND ABOUT HEALTHY FOOD, AND I USE THAT TO TRY AND INFLUENCE THE FOOD CHOICES OF THE CHILDREN.”

– Local Community Assistant, South Hedland



“FOR THESE KIDS AND THEIR LEARNING, THE BENEFIT IS THAT IT’S NOT JUST FROM A BOOK, BUT IT’S A WALK OUT INTO THE GARDEN, A CHANCE TO TALK ABOUT IT, AND IT SINKS IN SO MUCH MORE. THE EON PROGRAM VERY MUCH COMPLEMENTS AND SUPPORTS OUR SCHOOL CURRICULUM.”

– School Principal, Yakanarra

WHERE WE OPERATE

EON ONLY WORKS WITH SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES THAT INVITE US IN AND AGREE TO WORK WITH EON FOR UP TO FIVE YEARS TO ACHIEVE SUSTAINABILITY.

EON operates in or has completed its program in **24** communities in the Kimberley and Pilbara regions of Western Australia and we are now operating in **3** Northern Territory communities.

A number of original participant communities have completed the program. The majority of them continue to sustain the benefits with some seeing broader spin-off benefits including more home and/or community gardens, job creation and aspirations for commercial horticulture ventures.

LEGEND

- East Kimberley
- Central Kimberley
- West Kimberley
- Pilbara
- Exited Communities
- Groote Eylandt



GROWING IN THE KIMBERLEY

With much valued funding support from the Australian Government Department of Health, Jarlmadangah Burru, Yakanarra and Yiyili communities have embraced the EON Thriving Communities Program where the edible gardens are flourishing.

Regular classes in cooking, nutrition and gardening occurred on a fortnightly basis throughout the year at Yakanarra and Yiyili. The gardens were expanded and have steadily grown under the care of local Community Assistants. At Jarlmadangah Burru, despite some challenges within the community during the year, EON was able to establish a thriving garden with a small number of enthusiastic students from the school. At Yakanarra EON received support from local man Tyrone in the maintenance of the homemaker garden and from

Elder Lincoln, the school's supervising gardener and local man Shannon "Lee" Vanbee in the maintenance of the school garden. With all three men qualified in Certificate II Horticulture, previously facilitated by EON, they've been able to confidently work through the garden plan between EON's visits. At Yiyili, Eliza has been supported by two local men, Shaun Marr and Marcus Cox, both employed as Community Assistants to assist with the maintenance of the school garden.

Eliza continues to liaise with Nindilingarri Cultural Health Nutritionists to coordinate nutrition lessons and menus at the communities to ensure consistent health and nutrition messages are delivered to children and their families, including running joint sessions at the Yakanarra Homemaker Centre.

ELIZA WOOD IS EON'S CENTRAL KIMBERLEY PROJECT MANAGER WORKING IN JARLMADANGAH BURRU, YAKANARRA, AND YIYILI COMMUNITIES.



LAURA PRIEST IS EON'S EAST KIMBERLEY PROJECT MANAGER WORKING IN THE DOON DOON AND WARMUN COMMUNITIES.



With highly valued funding from The Bass Family Foundation and legacy funding from the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Doon Doon and Warmun communities continued to receive the EON Thriving Communities Program throughout the year.

With EON's Project Manager Laura's wealth of horticultural knowledge and experience, the gardens and students in these two communities flourished. Laura was able to increase fresh food production with a view to creating a perennial garden and continued to regularly visit and hold classes with the students at Warmun and Doon Doon.

A stakeholder meeting was held at Doon Doon in Term 1 of 2018 with representatives from the school, community and job pathways attending to plan for greater handover of the garden to the school and community. The community and school are enthusiastic about continuing to maintain and utilise the garden. The school principal has been proactive in weaving lessons in the garden into their weekly timetable.

Local Elder, Nancy Martin, continued to assist the EON team as a Community Assistant helping to maintain the gardens at Doon Doon between visits.

At Warmun, the gardens thrived under Laura's guidance and students of all ages enjoyed their lessons with Laura. Community cook-ups took place every visit with great attendance and community members utilising vegetables straight from the garden. The students worked hard planting and harvesting and continued to make the garden a special place with sculptures, painted tyre seats, scarecrows, hopscotch and a fire pit. The collaboration with East Kimberley Job Pathways meant additional support to keep the gardens maintained between visits.

EON has worked to help facilitate the further handing over of control and maintenance of the garden by the school/community.



SUZANNE O'CONNELL IS THE EON PROJECT MANAGER RESPONSIBLE FOR BIDYADANGA AND A NUMBER OF COMMUNITIES THAT ARE EXITING THE EON PROGRAM BUT RECEIVE ONGOING MENTORING SUPPORT.

The school and community gardens at the women's centre at Bidyadanga have thrived thanks to the enthusiastic support of local community members. Louis Yanawana, our local Community Assistant, has continued to be employed by EON.

We have provided mentoring and troubleshooting support to our exiting communities of One Arm Point, Beagle Bay and Djarindjin Lombadina. Local community assistants at Beagle Bay and One Arm Point remain employed by EON with other communities employing their own community gardeners or volunteers.

With the school at Djarindjin Lombadina having undergone renovations, in May 2018 the garden was successfully relocated to be adjacent to the Hospitality Building which has generated renewed interest by the community and school. At One Arm Point, the community garden adjacent to the women's centre has been successfully revamped by Community Assistant, Arnold McKenzie.

THRIVING IN THE PILBARA

SHARE GREENWOOD IS EON'S EAST PILBARA-BASED PROJECT MANAGER WORKING IN THE MARBLE BAR, NULLAGINE AND JIGALONG COMMUNITIES.

EON welcomed new Project Manager Share Greenwood in February 2018 after the retirement of Stacey Turale. Share has enjoyed forging strong relationships with the three communities she visits fortnightly- Marble Bar, Nullagine and Jigalong.

Australian Government Department of Health funding allows EON to deliver its programs to these communities.

In Nullagine the gardens have been expanded and the students' garden knowledge and engagement continued to grow. The students have harvested produce from the garden to prepare at home and are becoming confident and capable cooks, with a sound understanding of nutrition and safe kitchen skills.

During the holiday period EON worked with Ngurra Kujungka Inc and Newcrest Mining, delivering school holiday programs in Nullagine with great success.

There were some challenges in the early part of the year at Marble Bar, with plentiful rain causing road closures and making access difficult. The rain heralded the arrival of a plague of grasshoppers that devoured many of the



plants in the garden. Fortunately this provided Share with numerous opportunities to discuss with the children the topic of garden pests and good/bad garden bugs!

The next term was spent learning about and undertaking preparation of the soil and replanting crops. During this time Share installed the shade house and expanded and created new garden beds. Since then, the garden delivered good produce which was used to create delicious healthy recipes and meals.

At Marble Bar Share has been confidently assisted in her work by Community Assistant Alfred Spratt.

Jigalong only started the EON Program in late 2017, following an opportunity presented by the withdrawal of Roebourne, and much was achieved in the first half of 2018.

EON lessons at the school focused on healthy eating rather than takeaway food, with the younger children learning about healthy lunchboxes and nutritious food choices.

The older children also enjoyed lessons focusing on home cooking instead of takeaway food and the long-term effects on health of our food choices.

ANTHONY HOLMAN IS EON'S PILBARA-BASED PROJECT MANAGER, WORKING IN THE SOUTH HEDLAND, WARRALONG AND YANDEYARRA COMMUNITIES. PRIOR TO HIS APPOINTMENT JENNY HURSE WAS OUR PILBARA PROJECT MANAGER, SUPPORTED BY ANTHONY AS PROJECT OFFICER.



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

Jenny and Anthony experienced a busy and rewarding year, participating in numerous community events and activities including a bush tucker dinner for over 100 community members during NAIDOC week, joining in the School Jump Rope for Heart Program and once again supplying delicious and nutritious slushies and smoothies to students using the "smoothie bike" purchased in the previous year.

EON further extended the gardens at South Hedland Primary School, including the Gumula Child and Parent Centre.

Jenny and Anthony continued to run classes two days a fortnight at South Hedland Primary School and the

students particularly loved the cooking lessons. Local Aboriginal Elders, Beryl Ponce and Barbara Hale worked with EON at the school facilitating sessions with the students on bush foods and local ecology until the end of 2017, after which time new Community Assistant Taryn Watkins joined the EON team.

At Warralong, the gardens underwent further expansion with new orchards planted.

In August Jenny and Anthony joined the Kimberley Camp trip with students from both the Warralong and Strelley Community Schools. Approximately 40 children and 20 adults enjoyed an educational 10-day, 1,480 km school camp across the Kimberley. The co-curricular excursion was a collaboration between the EON Foundation and the CSIRO's Pathways Science program, which targets primary and middle school students in

remote Indigenous communities and uses on-country projects as the context for learning science linked to Indigenous ecological knowledge.

As part of the EON learning sessions, students prepared nutritious snacks and dinners each day.

Community Elders also attended the camp, providing opportunities for important cultural bush tucker knowledge to be shared with the younger generations.

At Yandeyarra, the gardens continued to grow and produce lots of fruit and vegetables. Pauline Monaghan, one of EON's longstanding Community Assistants retired in March 2018 and new Community Assistant Leuwyn Tinker was employed to take over this role. EON participated in many community events, including community evening meals, the Yandeyarra Christmas function and the School Awards Night.



NEW SHOOTS

EXPANSION INTO THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

For the first time in its 13-year history, EON expanded the EON Thriving Communities Program to the Northern Territory.

The Program is now being successfully implemented in 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 are enthusiastically working with EON's Program Manager, Clancy Hearps, who moved to the island in April 2018.

In her first few months, Clancy successfully revived an existing garden at Milyakburra, putting the shadehouse back together, setting up automated irrigation, weeding and cleaning up. Lessons commenced at the school with strong engagement from the students. Various fruits and vegetables were planted including tomatoes, capsicum, beans, corn, watermelon, zucchini, pumpkin, snowpeas, dragon fruit, passionfruit, lemongrass, pawpaw, roquette, coriander, basil, aibika and pineapple.



At Umbakumba, garden infrastructure was developed and lessons in the school commenced.

Some challenges presented at Angurugu due to school staffing changes, new school buildings under construction and the fact that a local school council was yet to be elected. So initial work with Angurugu focused on the Families as First Teachers program and the Preschool with associated teachers demonstrating keen interest in EON's work. A small garden is planned for these two groups. Despite these challenges, EON healthy eating lessons commenced at the school and were met with enthusiasm.

MOVING INTO THE MURCHISON

In 2017/18 EON completed due diligence on three communities from the Murchison region of WA who had been on the EON waiting list for some time. We also managed to secure funding to commit to Program commencement in the region.

Thanks to funding from the WA Department of Communities, along with support from Sandfire Resources, Ramelius Resources and the Shire of Mount Magnet, the Bass Family Foundation, Swisse, Clifford Chance and numerous individual donors, EON was able to commit to partner with three communities in the Murchison including Meekatharra and Mount Magnet. These communities will start the EON Thriving Communities Program in the second half of 2018.

The due diligence process included EON attending meetings of Meekatharra Aboriginal Reference Group (MARG), Mount Magnet Yamatji Reference Group (MMYRG), visiting each of the schools, and meeting with local Police, Shire representatives and Elders. Each community was provided with the Sustainability Plan for their review. Due diligence visits were also an opportunity to take soil and water samples and scope out the areas where the edible gardens will be established.



School Garden Mount Magnet



DUE DILIGENCE IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

During the reporting period, 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 fulfil its criteria for the program. It engaged extensively with a range of stakeholders to help in this process, resulting in the prioritising of nine communities.

In June 2018 EON visited five of the nine shortlisted communities, meeting with community members and representatives. Due diligence visits were made to Jilkminggan, Minyerri, Urapunga, Mataranka and Pine Creek with EON's potential presence being received with great enthusiasm by teachers and community members.

“I DEFINITELY FEEL LIKE EON HELPS THE COMMUNITY – THERE SHOULD BE EON IN ALL COMMUNITIES.”

Local Community Assistant, South Hedland Primary School.



GET TO KNOW OUR COMMUNITY ASSISTANTS

An important part of the EON 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 17 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 bushtucker,

- 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 five-year Program.



TARYN WATKINS – COMMUNITY ASSISTANT, SOUTH HEDLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

"I was born in Port Hedland. My dad was a wharfie. He helped make the port at Port Hedland. It was a beautiful place to play when we were kids- we liked to play at the port and fish.

My grandmother was one of the stolen generation. She was put in a Catholic Mission at Beagle Bay- that's where she learned about nutrition and healthy eating. She passed this knowledge on to my Dad who passed it on to me.

I've got 8 children and I'm also helping bring up 2 grandkids.

My oldest grandchild is 14, the youngest is just 2 months. My kids came to this school (South Hedland Primary) when they were little.

Before I joined EON I worked at EPIC helping disabled people get into employment. Then I saw the EON job advertised and I was very pleased to get it.

There is a high risk of health issues in my community because people tend to eat processed food.

Our people live off store food, it's not fresh food and it's expensive. It would be good if all communities could have

access to fresh fruit and vegies- there should be EON in all communities.

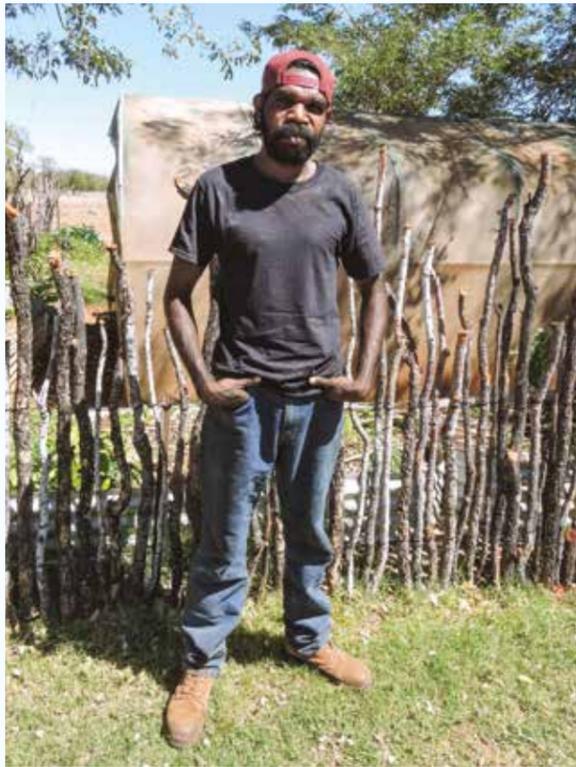
I'm in the garden every day- I help with everything- manure mixing, maintaining the garden, helping with the garden lessons. I now do my own lessons at Gumala (the playgroup adjacent to the school).

I work with Anthony on the days he is here. EON are good people- they make you feel welcome. They're willing to teach and show you things.

When I'm not in the garden I'm very busy with my grandchildren. I enjoy fishing and I like taking the kids to the basketball courts to play basketball. I like the kids to be active.

I like everything about being in the garden. There is lots of work to do, mainly weeding- you've got to keep up with that. I like it because it's peaceful. It's my space. You can actually think."





ELRONCE WONADON – COMMUNITY ASSISTANT, WARRALONG, STRELLEY COMMUNITY SCHOOL

“I was born in Port Hedland – I’m 29 now – and growing up I went to this school (Strelley Community School)

I’ve been working for EON for 3 months.

EON helps the kids by showing us and them which plants are best to plant when. We also learn about health and nutrition.

I’m in the garden 2 days a week and I do all kinds of garden work - raking, keeping it clean, planting, pulling out weeds. I like planting, watering, cleaning- all of it.

I also sometimes help EON with the lessons when the kids learn about the gardens.

I helped build the new fence around the garden.

My favourite food to eat from the garden is chillies!”



ALFRED SPRATT – COMMUNITY ASSISTANT, MARBLE BAR

“I’m 23 – I was born in Perth.

My sister used to work at the school (Marble Bar School). I then met Anthony and Share (EON Project Managers) who asked if I could keep an eye on the garden. After that I started as a Community Assistant.

I think EON helps my community a lot- the kids get into the garden once a fortnight when Share is here and they learn about growing and cooking fruit and vegies.

Me? I’m in the garden every day.

I maintain the garden and do the weeding, checking reticulation, repairs and planting. I’ve planted fruit trees like banana tree and mulberry trees.

I like to work in the garden so when Share comes it’s easier for her.

I find it relaxing to be in the garden and I get satisfaction in seeing stuff grow.

When I’m not in the garden I like to go prospecting and shooting. I go prospecting around Marble Bar. I like looking for gold. Sometimes I find some.”



SHANNON “LEE” VANBEE – COMMUNITY ASSISTANT, YAKANARRA

“I first started as a teacher’s aide at the school but then moved into working in the school grounds, planting trees and shrubs.

I like being in the garden to grow and see what comes out. Frankie (another local community member) started it and I saw what he was doing in the vegie garden. Lincoln was the first to join him. Helen (past principal) said “do the horticulture course”, so we did and got the Certificate II.

I like learning from Eliza (EON Project Manager) and working with her. She knows what to grow, she shows us how to make use out of the manure.

The garden gives the kids an idea that in the future they might be working here too and at their home. Eating healthy and living healthy is important. It’s good to grow your own vegies. It’s cheaper than buying at the shop and more fresh”.

“I LIKE LEARNING FROM
ELIZA (EON PROJECT
MANAGER) AND
WORKING WITH HER.
SHE KNOWS WHAT TO
GROW, SHE SHOWS US
HOW TO MAKE USE OUT
OF THE MANURE.”

- Shannon “Lee” Vanbee -
Community Assistant, Yakanarra



GRAHAM "MARTY" COPPIN - CHAIR MUGARINYA COMMUNITY, YANDEYARRA

Mugarinya Community is run by a Community Council, made up of 12 members with 8 executive councillors. The Chairperson of the Community is Graham "Marty" Coppin. While not a Community Assistant Marty is a valued EON supporter and helps out by checking on the EON garden at the school at Yandeyarra.

"I'm 39 - I was born in Hedland and grew up in Yandeyarra.

I've been Chair of the Land Council for over 6 years.

I've got nine children, six of whom attend the school (Yandeyarra School). I also went to this school myself.

I've been checking on the garden for EON for about 12 months - I'm in the garden every day.

I help with the soil - I know where to get the manure - I go where the cattle have been and collect the manure, I run the reticulation, do weeding and I get involved with the lessons when kids are in the garden.

I see a lot of health problems in my community - diabetes is a big problem.

"I'VE CHANGED THE FOOD THAT I MAKE FOR MY FAMILY; I'M ADDING NEW INGREDIENTS, USE LESS SUGAR, LESS SALT AND WE'VE CHANGED TO SUGAR-FREE DRINKS NOW TOO."

- Local Community Assistant, South Hedland

The garden shows us how to eat healthy - that's what I like about it.

Fresh fruit and vegies straight from the garden tastes better than buying them from the shops.

I like the carrots, broccoli, tomatoes, chilli, capsicum.

I was amazed at what can grow here. There's things that EON has planted that I didn't know could grow here but they showed us.

I've noticed the kids here eating more fruit and vegetables.

The kids say: "We didn't know you could make sweet potato ice cream!"

I learned a lot of things I didn't know before - like how to grow the plants, and how to best cut and cook them. When there's a shortage of food at home we know we can go to the garden.

I like to look at the garden growing. It's the best place in the community".

CLOSING THE GAP

In December 2007, the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) pledged to close key gaps in outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.

Specific targets were developed to reduce inequalities in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander life expectancy, mortality, education and employment. A seventh target to close the gap in school attendance was added in 2014.

Each year the Prime Minister reports to Parliament on progress in meeting these targets.

In the Prime Minister's 2018 Closing the Gap Report, EON was recognised and celebrated as an outstanding local solution that is delivering exciting outcomes - leading to healthier lives.





200 LESSON PLANS HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED TO BE USED BY EON PROJECT MANAGERS AND SCHOOL TEACHERS AS PART OF THE EON HEALTHY EATING PROGRAM.

NUTRITION RESOURCES

In late 2017, EON made a commitment to develop new, standardised education materials, lesson plans and activities for use by schools and EON Project Managers to accommodate increasing reliance on our Program methodology within schools and ensure consistent and effective delivery of the EON Healthy Eating component across our Program.

In early April 2018, with funding from Meridian Global Foundation and Bennelong Foundation, EON employed nutritionist Sabrah Imtiaz to undertake this review and develop our nutrition training materials and resources.

As a result of this work, 200 Lesson Plans have been developed to be used by EON Project Managers and school teachers as part of the EON Healthy Eating Program. These easy-to-use Lesson Plans, each of which relates to one of our ten key health messages, are linked to the Australian Curriculum.

A suite of valuable resources to support the Lesson Plans have also been developed, including food cards, worksheets, recipes, and story books.

TRAINING SUPPORT MATERIALS

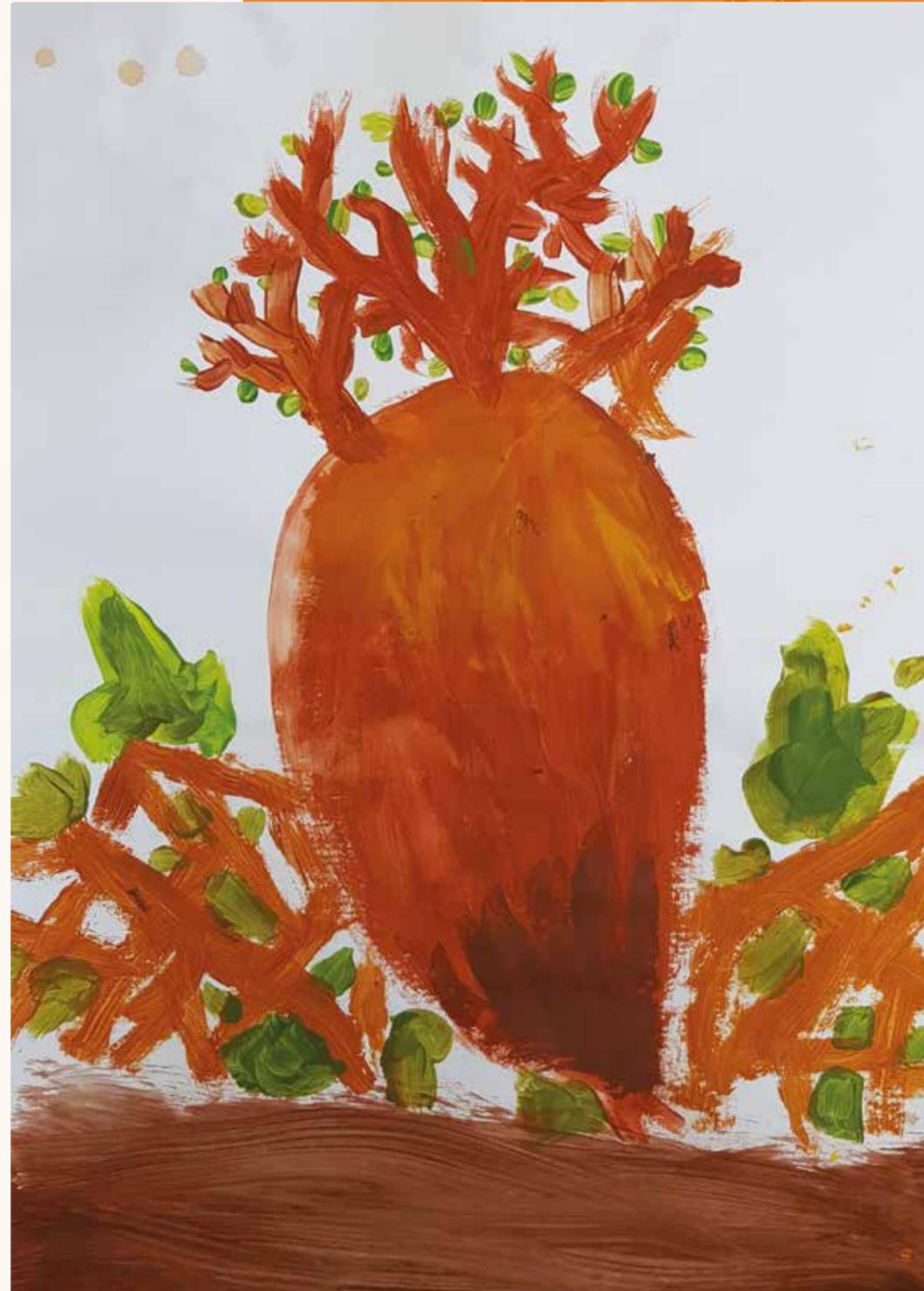
In the first half of 2018 EON developed a set of culturally-appropriate training modules for Project Managers to guide the training of EON's Community Assistants who are often not comfortable completing formal training, such as TAFE, due to lack of confidence and face geographical difficulty accessing formal training.

These materials have been developed with the help of trainer, Liz O'Neill, and reflect each of the EON Training and Education key messages. They are practical, culturally appropriate, hands-on and adaptable to the literacy and numeracy skills of participants. The Training materials will be rolled out in communities in 2018/19.

Training modules created for training EON Community Assistants include:

1. GARDENING TRAINING
2. NUTRITION TRAINING; AND
3. HEALTHY HOMES TRAINING.

Each module has a Workbook for the trainee, Lesson Plans and a Resource Book for the trainer (Project Manager), and a Training Outline. Importantly, the Workbooks are flexible so they can be completed in different sequences depending on the needs and strengths of each trainee, with each module being linked to formal education units run by TAFE.



THEY ARE
PRACTICAL, CULTURALLY
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SKILLS OF PARTICIPANTS.

SUPPORTING OUR PROJECT MANAGERS

Given EON's operations have expanded from the Kimberley and Pilbara to Groote Eylandt and the Murchison, in 2018 EON restructured to put more focus on the operations in communities. One of EON's experienced Project Managers, Jenny Hurse, has taken on the new role of Operations Manager - overseeing operations across all communities. And, rather than a full time General Manager, there is a part time Executive Manager, Marie-Louise Carroll, based in the Perth office.

This means we now have better oversight and management of the valued work of our Project Managers in communities across WA and the NT, greater knowledge-sharing and communication between regional staff and more efficient use of staffing resources.



COLLABORATIONS

EON Project Managers have had great success working collaboratively with many agencies and organisations including Earbus, Pilbara Population Health, Foodbank, Bloodwood Tree, Desert Feet and Ngurra Kujungka (Inc), often running joint classes, workshops, holiday programs and developing collaborative projects.

EON continues to collaborate successfully with Community Development Program (CDP) providers. Examples of these valuable collaborations include Kimberley Job Pathways who've assisted with workers for the gardens at Warmun and Doon Doon, and the Kullarri Regional Communities Indigenous Corporation (KRCI) who've assisted with employment of Community Assistants in the Kimberley particularly at Bidyadanga and One Arm Point.



“THE EON FOUNDATION HAS SHOWN A HIGH LEVEL OF UNDERSTANDING OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES THAT HELPS US AT FOODBANK FURTHER DEVELOP AND MODIFY OUR PROGRAMS TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY. FURTHERMORE, THE OUTSTANDING COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT FROM THE EON FOUNDATION STAFF HAS ENABLED A POSITIVE AND BENEFICIAL PARTNERSHIP THAT HAS NOT ONLY BENEFITED OUR ORGANISATIONS BUT ULTIMATELY THE LOCAL COMMUNITIES.

EON WORKS IN A WAY THAT ENGAGES AND EMPOWERS COMMUNITIES TO MAKE HEALTHY LIFE CHOICES. THE CONSISTENT PROMOTION OF HEALTHY EATING WITHIN COMMUNITIES IS VITAL TO ENABLE BEHAVIOUR CHANGE”.

– Foodbank, Pilbara



WHAT'S NEXT

GROW MORE GARDENS, GROW MORE FOOD . . .

The EON Thriving Communities Program grew significantly in 2017/2018 with the commencement of three new communities in the NT, but our waiting list of communities that have requested to join the program is still long. So we will keep trying to raise the funds to meet this need and improve the outcomes for children in remote Aboriginal communities.

Priorities for 2018/2019 will include:

- Start the EON Thriving Communities Program in three new communities in the Murchison region of Western Australia.
- Complete final Due Diligence in eleven communities in the Northern Territory.
- Secure more funding to grow more food in more communities, supporting 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 expansions, employment of local assistants and more nutrition education.

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

PLEASE HELP US GROW

HOW YOU CAN HELP

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 2018/2019 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.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

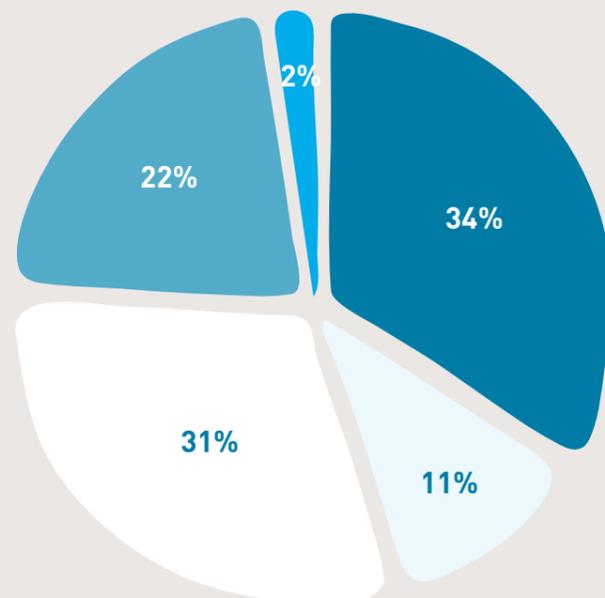
2017/2018

OPERATING RESULT

Income for the year to 30 June 2018 was \$1,544.8k compared to \$1,388.1k in 2016-17, representing a year-on-year increase in revenue of 11.3%. Expenditure was \$1,283.1k in the period compared to \$1,223.8k in 2016-17, increasing 4.8%. As a result, EON recorded a net surplus of \$261.7k for the 2017-18 financial year, versus \$164.3k in the prior year.

The revenue increase in the year is mainly driven by the commencement of operations at three communities on Groote Eylandt in the Northern Territory, funded by a new five-year contract with Groote Eylandt and Bickerton Island Enterprises (GEBIE). In addition, higher general donations income was received in the year, which, along with higher interest income, is driving the 2017-18 surplus. A significant portion of these surplus funds will be allocated to fund operations at three new communities in the Murchison region of Western Australia. EON continues 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 45.

HOW EON IS FUNDED



- 34% Federal Government Grants
- 11% State Government Grants
- 31% Other Grants (including Corporate)
- 22% Donations
- 2% Other Income

EON maintained its funding diversity in 2017-18, with a variety of funding partners from different sources. Total government funding remained stable at 45% in 2017-18 (a slight increase from 44% in 2016-17), reflecting the second year of a three-year funding agreement with the Australian Government Department of Health, to implement the EON Thriving Communities Program in six WA communities.

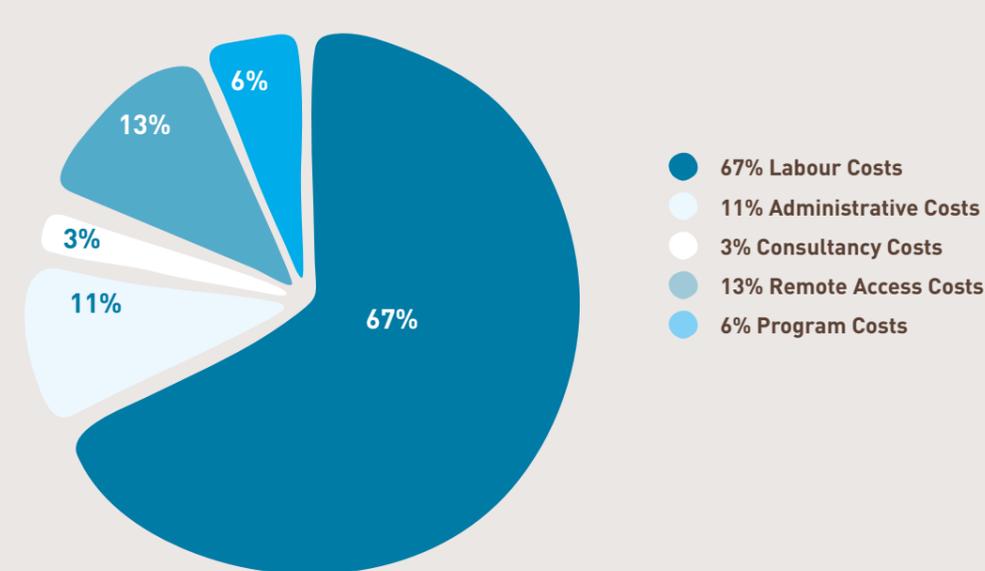
The State Government of Western Australia continued to support EON in 2017-18 through a funding agreement with the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development which contributed 11% of income for the year. This reduced from 14% in 2016-17 as the contract ended in 2017-18.

Other Grants contributed 31% of income in 2017-18 (versus 35% in 2016-17), which included ongoing funding partners such as BHP and Impact 100, along with new funding partners including GEBIE, Bennelong Foundation, Meridian Global Foundation and the Swisse Celebrate Life Foundation.

24% of EON's funding in 2017-18 came from donations and other income (a slight increase from 21% in 2016-17). This includes philanthropic donations including 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.

EON is grateful to all its financial supporters who are acknowledged on page 46.

HOW THE FUNDING IS EXPENDED



- 67% Labour Costs
- 11% Administrative Costs
- 3% Consultancy Costs
- 13% Remote Access Costs
- 6% Program Costs

Labour costs - salaries and oncosts for Project Managers, Community Assistants and head office staff. EON's program is about capacity building so 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.

EON sincerely appreciates the many organisations who have provided pro-bono or significantly subsidised professional services in support of our work.

We would also like to acknowledge our volunteers who have given up their time throughout the year to support EON.

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.



PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS

EON Foundation is sincerely thankful for the support of our 2017/2018 funding partners, corporate supporters and generous donors without whom we would not exist.

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PROGRAM PARTNERS



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THE PEOPLE BEHIND EON (30 JUNE 2018)

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Katrina Burton	EON Founder and Director	Paul Coates	Director
Harvey Coates	Director	Kaye Butler (until March 2018)	Director

AMBASSADOR

Rishelle Hume AM

ADVISORY PANEL

The Honorary Chief Justice Wayne Martin AC
Dr Erica Smyth AC

Jonathan Taylor
Dr Roslyn Giglia

EON STAFF

Marie-Louise Carroll	Executive Manager (incoming)	Stacey Turale	Project Manager, East Pilbara (outgoing)
Anjie Brook	General Manager (outgoing)	Clancy Hearps	Project Manager, Groote Eylandt
Anna Morris	Financial Controller	Anthony Holman	Project Manager, Pilbara (formerly Project Officer)
Helene Peck	Accounts Assistant	Suzanne O'Connell	Project Manager, West Kimberley
Pam Bond	Administration Officer (incoming)	Laura Priest	Project Manager, East Kimberley
Jenny Hurse	Operations Manager (formerly Project Manager, Pilbara)	Eliza Wood	Project Manager, Central Kimberley
Share Greenwood	Project Manager, East Pilbara (incoming)	Joy Champness	Project Officer, East Kimberley

LOCAL COMMUNITY ASSISTANTS

Marcus Cox	Kimberley	Pauline Monaghan	Pilbara
Kenneth Hunter	Kimberley	Aarron Paton	Pilbara
Shaun Marr	Kimberley	Beryl Ponce	Pilbara
Nancy Martin	Kimberley	Alfred Spratt	Pilbara
Arnold McKenzie	Kimberley	Leuwyn Tinker	Pilbara
Louie Yanawana	Kimberley	Antoinette Tom	Pilbara
Jillian Fisher	Pilbara	Taryn Watkins	Pilbara
Anthony Ginger	Pilbara	Elronce Wonadon	Pilbara
Barbara Hale	Pilbara	Steven Yabbie	Pilbara
Simonetta Knott	Pilbara		

AUDITOR

Dry Kirkness

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AND CAN BE MADE ONLINE AT WWW.EON.ORG.AU



EON Foundation

EON Foundation Inc.
ABN 67 663 634 217

Suite 2, 245 Churchill Ave,
Subiaco, WA 6008

(PO Box 677 Subiaco,
WA 6904)

(08) 9381 5403

Admin@eon.org.au

www.eon.org.au

@eonfoundation



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