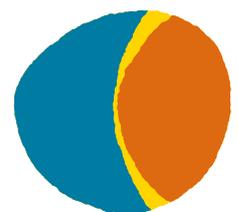




**EON FOUNDATION
ANNUAL REPORT 2020**



EON Foundation

OUR VISION

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

OUR MISSION

In partnership with remote Aboriginal communities and using edible gardens as a tool, deliver programs with a focus on health, nutrition, education and training that change community attitudes to healthy living.

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.



GROWING HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES

HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR YEAR

THIS YEAR EON:

- Delivered the EON Thriving Communities Program to **12 Western Australian communities** across the **Pilbara, Kimberley and Mid-West regions.**
- Delivered the EON Thriving Communities Program to **12 Northern Territory communities:** **3 communities** on **Groote Eylandt** and **9 communities** in the **Big Rivers Region.**
- **Further increased our Aboriginal employment to 25 Community Assistants** including the appointment of several key Assistants, identified as emerging talent, to be mentored by our Project Managers into more senior roles; plus provided further paid casual work to other local community members.
- Received recognition as a **Finalist in the 2019 Telstra Business Awards** as a **“Social Change-Maker”.**
- **Developed a new 10-year Strategic Plan** that confirms our vision, refines our mission and provides a clear set of objectives to guide our work over the long-term.
- **Responded effectively** to the challenges presented by COVID-19, using them as an opportunity to innovate to continue delivering our program, addressing food insecurity in remote communities and educating children and their families about the link between good nutrition and good health.



“STUDENTS HAVE EATEN MORE GREENS THROUGH THE EON GARDENS AND ARE MORE WILLING TO EXPERIMENT WITH NEW TASTES. REGULARLY EON PRODUCE IS INTEGRATED INTO OUR SCHOOL LUNCHES, AND STUDENTS ALMOST ALWAYS ASK FOR SECONDS!”

– Principal, Yakanarra

OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS

DURING 2019/2020 EON FOUNDATION DELIVERED OUR THRIVING COMMUNITIES PROGRAM TO:



24
remote communities



And
2,141
community interactions



Made
742
community visits



Travelled
208,730kms



Spent
1,217
days in community



Prepared
13,330
nutritious meals



Delivered
667
edible garden classes



And
910
healthy eating classes



Had
17,756
student interactions



“I LIKE LEARNING ABOUT HEALTHY EATING AND HOW TO COOK HEALTHY FOOD.”

– Student, 15 years, Minyerri



REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

EON, along with the rest of the world, has experienced a financial year like no other. The first half in 2019 was business as usual while the second half in 2020 was dominated by the COVID-19 pandemic challenges and threats. For remote communities in particular, the pandemic posed an enormous risk because of their many health vulnerabilities.

In 2019, we focused on increasing our engagement with and employment of local Community Assistants and bedding down our EON Thriving Communities Program in the Mid-West region of Western Australia and the Big Rivers Region of the Northern Territory (see map on page 14). We also underwent a comprehensive strategic review and agreed a new Strategic Plan for 2020-2030.

Thanks to generous funding provided by the Australian Government Department of Health we have established the Thriving Communities Program at 12 new communities – mostly in the Northern Territory. Our tailored and successful program and terrific people are now well established in Barunga, Bulman, Jilkminggan, Manyallaluk, Minyerri, Ngukurr, Pine Creek, Urapunga and Wugularr (Beswick).

Our Big Rivers expansion and the commencement of the program at three communities in the Mid-West of Western Australia has meant EON doubled its footprint last year, taking its operations from 12 remote communities to 24 remote communities. In total, EON's program has been delivered to 38 remote communities since 2005.

As the seriousness of the COVID-19 pandemic emerged in early 2020, EON responded swiftly, suspending outsider visits to many of our remote communities across WA and

the NT to reduce the risk of transmission of the virus to vulnerable people. Sadly, the food insecurity in remote communities grew with the pandemic restrictions and EON's absence was felt even more deeply. As a result, our work took on a new urgency and our problem-solving skills brought to the fore.

We adapted our program delivery to continue providing nutrition and gardening education to the students through training and delegating responsibilities to our Aboriginal Community Assistants and Project Managers, who are permanent residents of the remote communities.

Our policy of employing and training as many Community Assistants in as many locations as possible paid dividends. Technology played an important role with our team providing advice from afar and troubleshooting over phone, video and email.

The many adaptations and initiatives we undertook are outlined on page 19 of this report.

We are immensely proud of the way our remote staff adapted to these changes. We also acknowledge the efforts of our Board and office-based employees who worked remotely without interruption to our service.

Developing the program in the Mid-West of WA over the past 12 months has been another great accomplishment for EON.

The schools/communities of Meekatharra, Mount Magnet and Yalgoo are enthusiastically receiving fortnightly visits from our Mid-West Project Manager and it's been hugely satisfying to see how the school students have responded to learning from and in the EON garden, harvesting huge quantities of healthy produce for their cooking classes and taking veggie packs home to enjoy with their families.



"THE BIGGEST CHANGE I HAVE SEEN IS A SIGNIFICANT DECLINE IN SOFT DRINK BEING CONSUMED BY STUDENTS. THEY USED TO BRING LARGE BOTTLES OF SOFT DRINK WITH THEM TO SCHOOL AT 8AM. MANY STUDENTS HAVE MADE A CHANGE TO WATER AND SOME TO JUICE. I ATTRIBUTE THIS TO [EON PROJECT MANAGER] OWEN'S FANTASTIC LESSONS ON THE BENEFITS OF DRINKING WATER."

– Teacher, Ngukurr

As mentioned, EON's Board and Management undertook a review of our Strategic Plan and developed a new Strategic Plan 2020-2030. In line with our growth and maturity as an organisation, we refined our mission and reconfirmed our vision to make a lasting contribution in remote Aboriginal communities through the reduction of preventable and chronic disease caused by poor nutrition.

As part of our planning process we committed to develop our Aboriginal employment strategy, so we continue to build capacity to progress the work of growing healthier communities after EON's program has been completed.

As the gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal health remains persistently high, EON is committed to using our edible gardens to both provide a local source of fresh food and educate our communities about the link between a nutritious diet and good health.

While focusing on delivering an excellent program to the communities we have committed to, we are always mindful of the many communities across WA and the NT on our waiting list. Assessing and prioritising the needs of those communities, while seeking the required additional funding, is a focus for the coming year.

Our work is made possible through the support of our generous donors and funding partners. Special thanks to the Australian Government Department of Health,

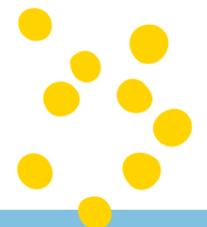
Groote Eylandt and Bickerton Island Enterprises (GEBIE), BHP, the WA Department of Communities, the Bass Family Foundation, Marion Tapper and Dr Doreen Clark AM.

Thank you also to the pro bono EON Board, our Ambassador Dr Rishelle Hume AM as well as Perth and Katherine staff, whose knowledge and experience guides our work. Heartfelt thanks to our Operations Managers, regional Project Managers and Community Assistants who worked so hard this year and adapted with flexibility, innovation and grace to the difficulties presented by COVID-19. We expect much of our regional and remote staff who deliver our program in challenging environments - their expertise and dedication enables our continued success.

And as always, thank you to the children, teachers and families in our remote communities who place their trust in us.

Together, we are building the foundations for enduring generational change.

Caroline de Mori
Chair



WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO

- 94% of Indigenous children have an inadequate daily intake of fruit and vegetables.
- Healthy food baskets cost up to 50% more in remote areas than in major cities.
- Hot chips, sugary drinks, high-fat processed meats, salty snacks and white bread are the highest contributors to caloric intake for remote Indigenous children.
- Up to 60% of Indigenous children in remote communities are affected by anaemia, associated with nutritional deficiencies.
- Poor nutrition contributes to Aboriginal children having the worst ear health of any people in the world, with 3 out of 5 children in remote communities being diagnosed with at least 1 ear condition.

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



Heart Disease



Type 2 Diabetes



Kidney Disease

are nutrition related.

Indigenous children are 8 times more likely to have Type 2 diabetes than 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.

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



“IT’S IMPORTANT TO EAT LOTS OF FRUIT AND VEG - IT’S GOOD FOR YOUR EYES AND MUSCLES - YOU GET STRONGER AND THERE’S NO TEASING AT SCHOOL BECAUSE YOU ARE FIT AND HEALTHY!”

- Student, 14 years, Yiyili

“WHEN WE NEED TO COOK WE CAN PLUCK VEGETABLES FRESHLY FROM THE GARDEN!”

- Student, 10 years, Nullagine

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 food 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 employment 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.

EON's policy is to train and employ as many local Community Assistants in our communities as possible. Community Assistants gain knowledge and skills through on-the-job training; they maintain the gardens and help with program delivery and classes, both when EON is in community and during the Project Manager's absence.

The EON Thriving Communities Program builds capacity, seeks to prevent disease, improve health, nutrition education 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; and
- Providing training, mentoring and employment to ensure long term healthy lifestyle change.

"I LIKE WORKING WITH EON BECAUSE I LEARN ON THE JOB AND AM SKILLING UP. MY TIME IN THE GARDEN IS THERAPEUTIC AND IT'S AN ACHIEVEMENT WHEN THINGS START TO GROW."

- Community Assistant, Marble Bar.

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 several 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 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.

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

3. EON TRAINING, EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT

Formal and informal training to children and adults – to sustain the gardens and provide employment pathways. Employing local community members is an EON priority.

*Previously known as "Healthy Homes", this component has been incorporated into EON Healthy Eating.

MEASURING OUR IMPACT

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 exiting 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 partners connected to the program.

Monitoring and Evaluation results to date have notably demonstrated:

- long-term positive behavioural 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.

In the previous reporting period, baseline data was collected by EON's Monitoring and Evaluation Officer in

the communities of Meekatharra, Mount Magnet, Yalgoo (Mid-West) and in Urapunga, Barunga, Manyallaluk, Ngukurr, Jilkminggan and Pine Creek (Big Rivers Region NT) and included 242 student surveys from nine of the twelve communities who commenced the program in 2018/2019.

During this reporting period the student surveys for Minyerri and Bulman were undertaken (43 students surveyed) with the baseline surveys for Beswick also now completed.

Principal and teacher interviews for these communities were also undertaken in this reporting period.



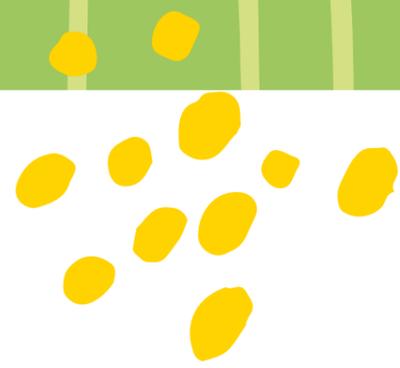
“WHENEVER OUTSIDERS SEE OUR KIDS COOK, THEY ARE IMPRESSED BY THEIR CONFIDENCE, KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS IN THE KITCHEN. THESE SKILLS, THEIR CONFIDENCE AND KNOWLEDGE HAVE COME DIRECTLY FROM WORKING WITH EON.”

- Teacher, Nullagine

“[SINCE EON] STUDENTS CAN IDENTIFY MORE VEGETABLES AND ARE WILLING TO TRY VEGETABLES THEY HAVE PREVIOUSLY BEEN UNFAMILIAR WITH. WE HAVE ALSO SEEN BEHAVIOUR IMPROVEMENT IN STUDENTS THAT LEARN BEST OUTSIDE OF THE CLASSROOM. THE EON GARDEN SEEMS TO CALM STUDENTS WHO ARE ANXIOUS OR AGITATED.”

- Principal, Jilkminggan

WHERE WE OPERATE



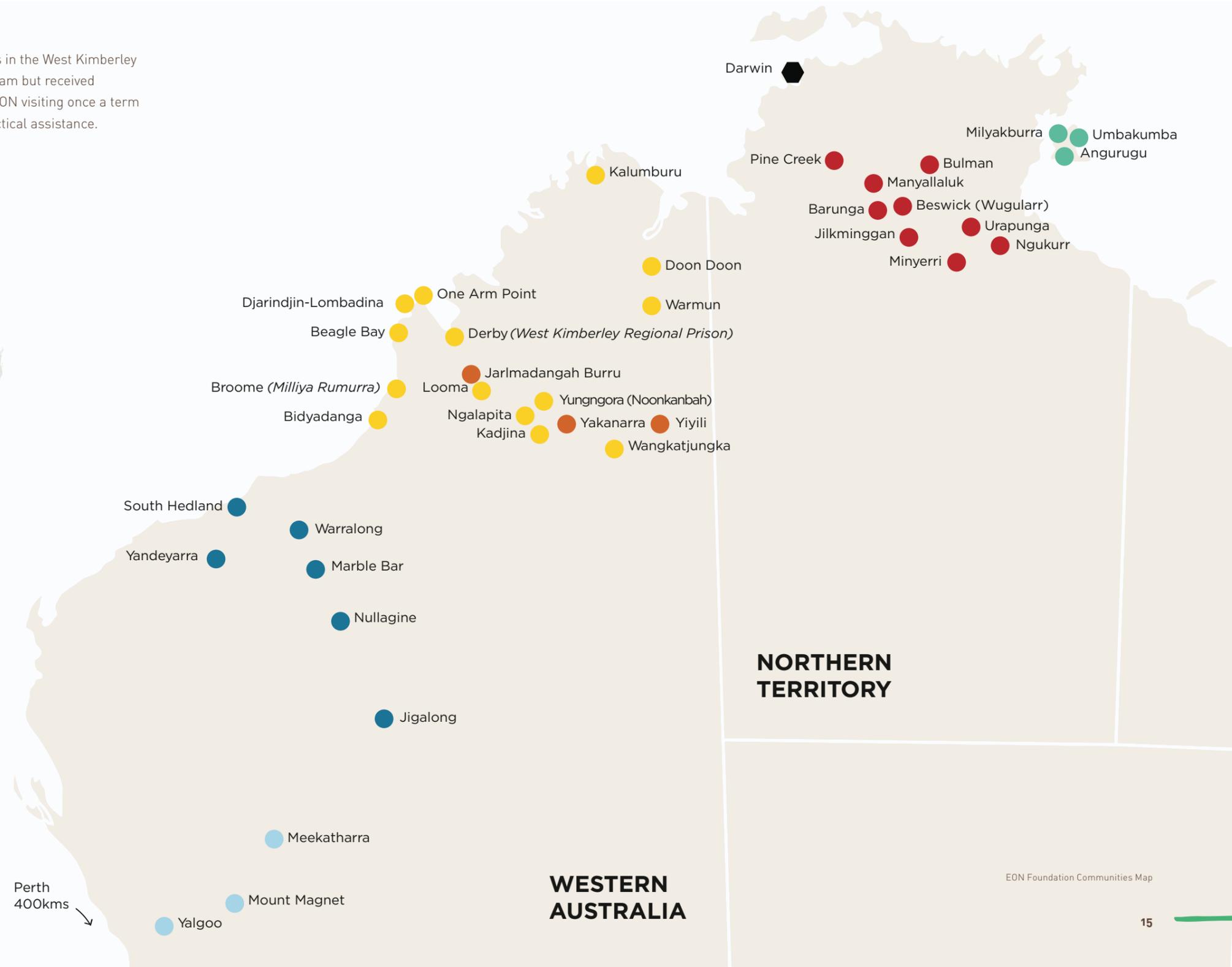
EON operates in or has completed its program in **38** communities across Australia.

During the reporting period we delivered the program to **12** communities in **WA**, across the Kimberley, Pilbara and Mid-West 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 received mentoring support with EON visiting once a term to provide advice and practical assistance.

LEGEND

- Big Rivers Region
- Groote Eylandt
- Pilbara
- Mid-West
- Central Kimberley
- Completed Program



OPERATIONS LEADERSHIP

JENNY HURSE IS EON'S NATIONAL OPERATIONS MANAGER/NT MANAGER AND ELIZA WOOD IS OUR WA OPERATIONS MANAGER



EON's National Operations Manager/ NT Manager, Jenny Hurse, is based in Katherine and manages the NT team while also providing national oversight. Jenny leads and manages the planning and delivery of EON's work, ensuring the quality and the consistency of the EON Thriving Communities Program.



Broome based WA Operations Manager Eliza Wood takes responsibility for strategic operations in WA and the management of all WA based Project Managers.





EON'S COVID-19 RESPONSE

Like many other organisations, EON's greatest challenge during the year was undoubtedly the impact of COVID-19 and its legacy.

School closures, restricted access, and biosecurity border closures all affected program delivery, with Project Managers having to pause travel to many locations to minimise the risk of virus transmission.

During this period our talented team swiftly adapted the delivery of the EON Thriving Communities Program to continue to provide nutrition and gardening education to the students along with training to our Aboriginal Community Assistants.

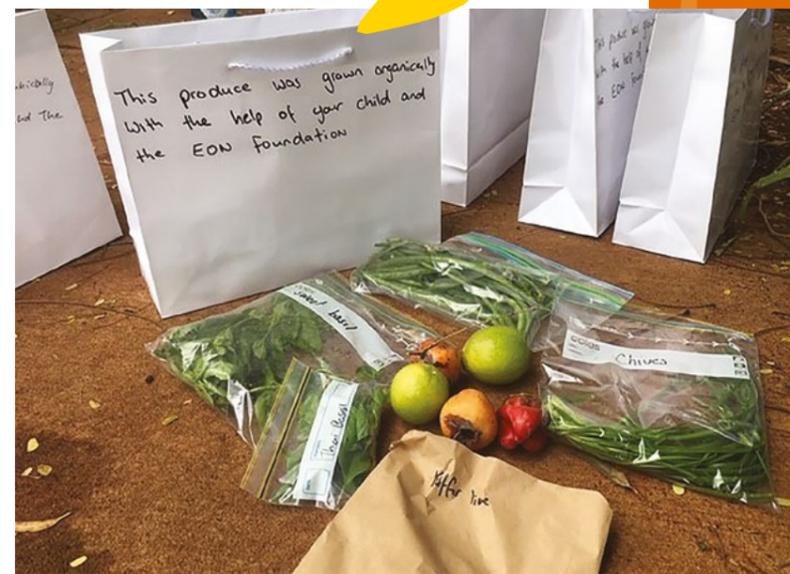
Adaptations and initiatives we took included:

- The creation of educational gardening and healthy eating videos the students could view online. The videos contained instructions for tasks the students could complete in their schools and communities.
- The creation of hard-copy educational activity packs that were sent to students without online access - resources included educational materials on healthy eating and some simple gardening activities.

- The delivery of nutritious recipes and ingredients so students could cook their own healthy meals.
- The delivery of food packs with recipes and nutrition messages to identified families in need.
- The provision of 'home garden kits' containing necessary materials and instructions on how to create a basic vegetable garden.

Our Project Managers also negotiated with local stores during this period to arrange the supply of healthy ingredients for cooking classes at the schools. We provided recipes for stores to display to encourage positive food choices by the community.

There have been legacy issues from the pandemic, including increased social problems and unrest. EON continues to work with the affected schools to engage the students, encourage attendance and connect with the community.



WESTERN AUSTRALIA



Erika Wells, Project Manager, Central Kimberley

CENTRAL KIMBERLEY

JARLMADANGAH BURRU, YAKANARRA & YIYILI

With generous funding support from the Australian Government Department of Health, the communities of Yakanarra, Yiyili and Jarlmadangah Burru continued to embrace the EON Thriving Communities Program and the edible gardens have flourished, producing bountiful harvests of fruit and vegetables.

EON delivered regular classes in cooking, nutrition and gardening on a fortnightly basis throughout the year at Yiyili and Yakanarra and monthly at Jarlmadangah Burru. Lessons were taught to children from kindergarten through to high school age, with a focus on practical nutrition, using garden produce complemented by food sourced at the local shop.

EON maintained and improved the existing gardens to ensure regular production and increased engagement with and food supply for the school students. Fruit, vegetables and herbs were regularly harvested for use in the cooking classes with students, added to school lunches by the kitchen staff, and sent home with families.

At Yiyili EON expanded the existing gardens at the school; there are now three large garden spaces comprising established fruit trees, garden beds bursting with a colourful array of vegetables, plus cooking areas and sculptural spaces.

Driven by our dedicated team of Community Assistants- Bruce Cox and Anthony Dawson- EON built two thriving community gardens in Guninyi and Pull Out camps, as well as some smaller home gardens. The machinery support of Marra Worra Worra and the valuable assistance of the local Community Development Program workers (CDP) has contributed to the success of the garden expansion.

At Yakanarra the EON garden has evolved during the year with the addition of five new garden beds and a dozen new fruit trees. Students of all ages have enthusiastically participated in the EON classes. The high school students have also undertaken work experience sessions in the gardens with a stronger focus on skills development.

EON continued to receive outstanding support from local men Tyrone Hand and Shannon 'Lee' Vanbee in the maintenance of the school garden. These experienced Community Assistants welcomed students into the gardens for regular tours and teaching of plant and food recognition to complement EON's formal healthy eating and nutrition lessons.

Due to low numbers of students in attendance at the Nyikina Mangala Community School at Jarlmadangah Burru, classes were delivered on a monthly basis for the majority of the reporting period. While EON delivered the program we undertook intermittent monitoring of the situation and the fluctuating attendance numbers. A program review held towards the end of the reporting period found there were too few students attending school to warrant EON's continued presence and we reluctantly withdrew the program in June this year.

However, during its four years at the school, EON imparted knowledge to a group of enthusiastic and engaged children and it has been heartening to hear about their pride in the garden and their love of learning about healthy eating. The garden infrastructure provided by EON can be long-lasting (with fencing, reticulation and garden beds installed) and we anticipate the teachers and students can continue to use the garden as an alternative and engaging 'outdoor classroom'.

CENTRAL KIMBERLEY



WEST KIMBERLEY

A NUMBER OF COMMUNITIES ON THE DAMPIER PENINSULA HAVE FINISHED THE EON PROGRAM BUT RECEIVED MENTORING SUPPORT DURING THE YEAR THANKS TO FUNDING FROM THE BASS FAMILY FOUNDATION.

After almost 13 years working on the Dampier Peninsula, and hundreds of children and adults engaged in our program, EON wound down its visits during 2019/2020.

At Djarindjin Lombadina, the EON garden at Christ the King Catholic School continued to be maintained by the school gardeners and supported by EON with once-a-term visits until December 2019.

Djarindjin Lombadina holds special significance for EON as it was the first community to commence the program- initially a pilot - that informed EON's current business model.

Legacies from the program in this community endure, with produce from the garden regularly used in school lunches prepared for the students. Children have a class every week in the garden and can access it at any time to pick produce, including eggplant, bok choy and spinach. Each class has been allocated a garden bed and is responsible for tending it, and the school takes pride in using the garden as a tool for teaching health and nutrition.

At One Arm Point, Community Assistant Arnold Mackenzie worked in the community garden with visits from EON each term to mentor and bring seed and plant supplies.

The Ardyaloon Aboriginal Corporation that runs the community expressed an interest in continuing the garden and at their request EON assisted with moving the garden to the new aged care centre to be used by elderly residents, community members and supported by the CDP program. After assisting with the relocation, at the end of 2019 EON handed over responsibility to the Corporation.

At Beagle Bay, with EON's long-standing support over many years, health and nutrition education has been built into the school's curriculum. However, the garden was discontinued during the reporting period as the school underwent major construction. EON will continue to check in and provide support to enable the garden's potential re-establishment, but the responsibility for this has now been handed over to the school.

La Grange Remote Community School at Bidyadanga received the full EON program for over four years and over the last couple of years has received once-a-term visits from EON for mentoring and support. The garden continues and health and nutrition are a priority in the school's teaching program.



THE PILBARA

SOUTH HEDLAND, WARRALONG & YANDEYARRA

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

Over the past year at South Hedland Primary School EON delivered classes to the students, from Kindergarten to Year 5.

Edible garden classes focused on developing plant identification skills, seed harvesting, insect surveys and general garden maintenance. EON also facilitated sessions for the STEAM class- students with low self-esteem and relationship-building issues- learning the principles of teamwork together in the garden.

The school garden continued to thrive and produced high quality yields of fresh fruit and vegetables. Food produced was used in the EON healthy eating classes and taken home in veggie packs for students to share with their families. Developments this year included the addition of garden art installation, a paw paw forest, a new grow space, a large worm farm, and a permanent trellis installed to grow vines. The banana circle established by EON also produced a whopping 500+ bananas this season!

Jacqueline Toyne worked alongside the Project Manager, expertly helping with garden maintenance and making great connections with the students to enhance lesson delivery and encourage participation.

Community Assistant Azlan Shaw was a huge help with assisting the Project Manager to extend the grow space, maintain the garden and deliver EON's classes to the students.

Fortnightly visits, classes and workshops also continued at Warralong (Strelley Community School). School staff continued to be very supportive of EON's work and provided valuable input to the program.

Garden produce was used by the school in the breakfasts and lunches provided to the students, as well as being enthusiastically harvested by the community and the students to use in the EON Healthy Eating classes. Students continued to regularly visit the garden outside of EON classes to pick and consume delicious, raw produce such as snake beans and tomatoes.

Improvement work continued in both the school and community garden with EON's Project Manager receiving valued assistance particularly from Sheldon Wilson, Brenson Rowlands and Yolli Sambo who are employed via the school. The men helped maintain the edible gardens as well as install home gardens. The community have taken pride in these home gardens, regularly watering and tending to them. During the reporting period the local team also built a sturdier sustainable compost system. All green waste from the school now gets put through the compost system in the EON school garden.

EON's Project Manager regularly engaged with the Warralong community and was invited to participate in the Learning on Country Program and the school camp, providing healthy food and classes on these outings.

At Yandeyarra, EON facilitated three classes a fortnight to each year group. Healthy eating/nutrition classes have focused on themes including "the garden is a good source of healthy food", "eat your veggies to stay healthy", "it's best to eat from the 5 food groups" and "fresh food is much healthier for you than takeaway food".

Community Assistant Syed Barba provided valuable support in delivering the EON classes and with garden maintenance. The garden is thriving and produced plentiful food for the community and EON's cooking classes. EON's Project Manager was also supported this year by Sandra McKenzie.

EON's strong partnership in the Pilbara with both Foodbank WA and Pilbara Population Health (part of WA Health) continued, with complementary delivery of classes and reinforcing of each other's nutrition messages.



Tim Richards, Project Manager, Pilbara

“CONVERSATIONS WE HAVE WITH STAKEHOLDERS ABOUT THE IMPACT OF EON FOUNDATION'S WORK ARE ALWAYS VERY POSITIVE. COMMUNITY MEMBERS VALUE THE CONSISTENCY OF FORTNIGHTLY VISITS. EON'S MODEL FACILITATES TRUST AND THIS HELPS FOSTER A SUPPORTIVE ATTITUDE TOWARDS THEIR APPROACH TO BUILDING LOCAL COMMUNITY CAPACITY.”

- Foodbank WA Team (Pilbara).



Share Greenwood, Project Manager, East 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. EON education was provided to playgroup families, community members and school students ranging from kindergarten to high school, with lessons tailored appropriately.

The gardens at all three communities were expanded and are growing plenty of vegetables and fruit trees. Produce contributed to meals being cooked by the students and was also taken home or used in school lunches.

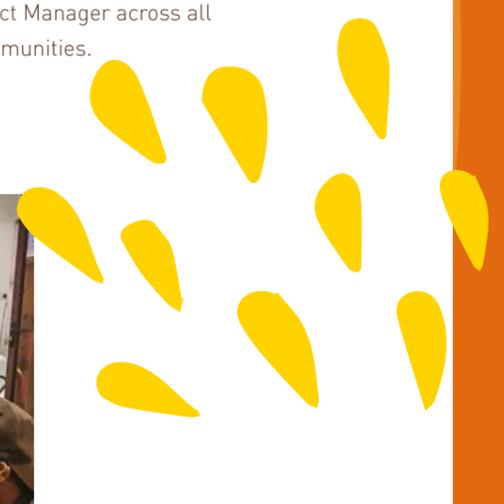
At Jigalong, EON expanded its community reach by successfully partnering with Ngurra Kujungka (who lead the Western Desert's community-driven sports program), Jigalong Police, Mission Australia, World Vision and Royal Lifesaving to convey our messages.

The EON school garden at Nullagine was moved to a new area which has contributed to a more contained, sheltered, and useable space and brought more connection to the area.

Our Community Assistants worked hard to maintain the EON school gardens, despite being in lockdown during the COVID-19 period. At Jigalong, Granda Burton provided steady support and at Marble Bar EON has been skilfully assisted by Stephen Mason.

The school garden at Marble Bar is thriving and is a tribute to Stephen's hard work, helping EON build a new fence around the perimeter, expanding the growing areas and planting new fruit trees.

Daniel De Luca also provided valuable assistance to the Project Manager across all three East Pilbara communities.



THE MID-WEST

MEEKATHARRA, MOUNT MAGNET & YALGOO

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 partnered with three communities in the Mid-West, namely Meekatharra, Mount Magnet and Yalgoo. Australian Government Department of Health funding also significantly contributes to the program in these communities.

The gardens in all three communities have grown beautifully this year, producing plentiful harvests for the students and the wider community to enjoy.

“LIVING IN MEEKATHARRA, IT'S PRETTY HARD TO GET FRESH PRODUCE. SO HAVING ACCESS TO FRESH FRUIT AND VEGETABLES IS REALLY GREAT AND THE KIDS LOVE IT. EVERY TIME WE HAVE A GARDENING SESSION WITH EON THE CHILDREN GET A BIG BAG TO TAKE HOME FILLED WITH FRESH VEGETABLES.”

- Teacher, Meekatharra District High School

At Meekatharra and Mount Magnet EON delivered classes to students ranging from kindy through to high school. At Yalgoo Primary School all students participated in EON's program.

At Meekatharra, nutrition/healthy eating lessons have focused on making smart meal choices, how to make a small budget stretch further and trying out new flavours from the garden to enhance healthy meals, such as lemongrass, dill and edible flowers.

EON planted and maintained seven garden beds that are highly productive in the "farm" area, as well as a large thriving pumpkin patch with bananas, lime trees, fig trees and assorted medicinal plants. Enormous amounts of food from the garden have been used in the cooking classes, including bok choy, carrots, broccoli, coriander, cauliflower, peas and silverbeet.

At Mount Magnet, the garden has been extremely productive with capsicums, tomatoes, sweet potatoes, brussel sprouts, broccoli and chives growing, and a huge pumpkin haul was retrieved earlier in the year. EON has prepared a diverse range of healthy meals with the students- incorporating a range of vegetable flowers - with bok choy and broccoli being the firm favourites!

At Yalgoo, where the EON program commenced later than in the other communities, enormous strides have been made this year. The garden has been thriving and the community has contributed to creating the garden space. Produce has been enthusiastically planted and harvested by the students.

The children regularly visited the garden of their own accord, discovering new flowers, sampling snow peas and generally enjoying the tranquil space they helped create. Community and family members also visited the garden to take fresh herbs home and marvel at their children's handiwork.

There has been a focus on an 'all inclusive' cooking experience, meaning all students were involved with the processes - harvesting produce, preparing, cooking



Sally Dighton, Project Manager, Mid-West



and serving meals. Once the food was prepared, the students sat together to eat and reflect on the tremendous teamwork undertaken. Families of students also attended school this year to partake in the meal which helps convey EON's nutrition messages to the wider community.

The local shire at Yalgoo has supported EON's work, providing landscape supplies and contributing to the garden with machinery work.

At Meekatharra, EON's Project Manager was ably assisted by a team of Community Assistants including Lesharn Fraser, Cameron Hale and Curtley Mow; at Mount Magnet Latoya Finley has recently joined EON as local support.

At Yalgoo, EON was supported by Shannon Simpson who has thrived in her work under the guidance of EON's Project Manager, making a significant contribution to the garden and mastering the art of reticulation maintenance.



THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

BIG RIVERS REGION

Thanks to generous funding provided by the Australian Government Department of Health, the Thriving Communities Program continued at nine communities in the Big Rivers Region of the NT.



Nettie Bory, Project Manager, Central Arnhem

CENTRAL ARNHEM

PINE CREEK, BARUNGA & MANYALLALUK

The teachers and students at Pine Creek and Barunga schools have keenly embraced the EON program, providing great support to the Project Manager.

EON delivered lessons to students ranging from very young children at FaFT (Family as First Teachers) – a NT Government initiative to support early learning for 0-3 year-olds – up to Year 6 (Pine Creek) and high school (Barunga).

Healthy eating lessons focused on consuming from the five food groups and best practice hygiene in the kitchen. Edible garden classes focused on skills in planting, plant identification, harvesting and general garden maintenance.

At Pine Creek, a total of 11 garden beds produced a wide range of vegetables and herbs, including tomatoes, zucchini, peas, beans and parsley. EON nurtured the existing fruit trees, adding nutrients to the soil to promote their growth.

In addition to the harvested fruit and vegetables being used in the cooking classes and taken home to communities at both Pine Creek and neighbouring Kybrook Farm, garden produce was used in the school kitchen on a daily basis to create nutritious meals for the students.

At the local community's request, EON established a small edible garden at Kybrook Farm with the important help of the local CDP (Community Development Program) service provider, Rise. This garden provides an opportunity for the community to consume fresh, home grown produce and learn about good nutrition.

The Project Manager was supported by Community Assistants Lance Ashley and Barry Bates. Lance has recently been promoted and is now being trained to become a Project Manager.

“STUDENTS ARE ALWAYS ENGAGED AND MOTIVATED TO PARTICIPATE IN EON ACTIVITIES AND THEY ARE PROUD OF PRODUCE FROM THE GARDENS.”

- Principal, Pine Creek.

At Barunga, EON established and maintained a dozen raised garden beds plus banana palms and fruit trees.

It has been gratifying to see the students trying and enjoying healthy new foods they have grown themselves, with the wider community also learning about 'good tucker' from EON and from their own children.

The local CDP worked with EON to create tumbler compost bins and provided the fantastic addition of vertical gardens for the school, using simple pallets.

EON's Project Manager received excellent ongoing support from Lana Miller who contributed her knowledge in horticulture, as well as some initial support from Lloyd Mundul, prior to the COVID-19 shut down.

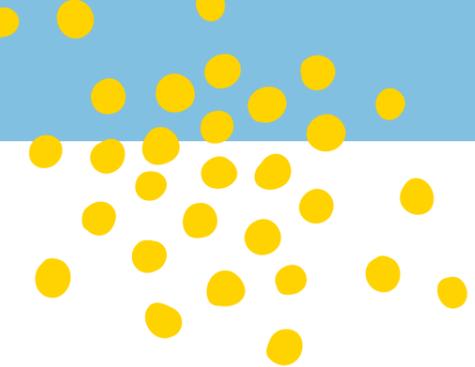
At Manyallaluk, EON delivered classes to children from kindergarten/transition to Year 5.

The fruit, vegetables and herbs from the EON gardens were harvested on a daily basis by the school students, with produce used in cooking classes and taken home to be shared with families.

However after a promising start and initial success at Manyallaluk, issues arose. Upon a full review, EON concluded that unfortunately we would not be able to implement the full program and achieve the promised outcomes and impacts. We therefore withdrew from the community near the end of the financial year.

“THIS PUMPKIN MUST LIKE IT HERE. THIS IS THE BIGGEST MOB OF PUMPKIN GROWING HERE!”

- Parent, Pine Creek



ROPER REGION

JILKMINGGAN & MINYERRI

At Jilkminggan and Minyerri, EON taught children ranging from those in the Families as First Teachers (FaFT) program to Year 12. Healthy eating lessons focused on how to create a nutritious diet using fresh produce from the garden.

EON's Project Manager challenged the students' tastebuds by occasionally asking the children what foods they do not enjoy and subsequently providing them with a tasty dish containing the fruit or vegetable they professed to dislike. It was an enjoyable learning experience for the children to realise how delicious healthy, plant-based foods can be, when cooked the right way.

The Jilkminggan gardens have thrived, with a huge range of vegetables being grown and eaten. EON established a greenhouse with seeds ready to plant and the students enthusiastically contributed to the seed collection each fortnight. As well as an orchard with citrus trees, bananas and strawberries, there are pumpkin and cabbage plants growing in the space next to the much-used basketball court.

EON's Project Manager was confidently supported in her work by Community Assistant Ricky Cockyell.

At the entrance to Minyerri School EON established and maintained a huge edible community garden consisting of Asian greens, sunflowers, cabbages, pumpkin, tomatoes, cucumbers, chillies, corn and citrus fruits in abundance. EON was ably assisted by Community Assistant Guiseppe 'Chappy' Parry who along with the students and the local CDP have put in an enormous effort to get this garden established. The greenhouse is fully operational and stocked with seedlings that the students have enjoyed planting on a fortnightly rotation. In the school there are now seven large concrete block garden beds, and four old washing machine drum garden beds growing vegetables galore! The preschool area has two large planter boxes full of corn and beans.

All this plentiful produce has been used in classes with the students and been taken home to share with their appreciative families.

At Minyerri, EON worked with the Employment Pathways Program and the NT Department of Education to deliver the VET (Vocational Education and Training) program, using the EON garden space as a training resource. During this training, modules from EON's Edible Gardens Training Package were used in conjunction with the Department's resources.



Donna Donzow, Project Manager, Roper Region



NGUKURR AND URAPUNGA

The teachers and students at both Ngukurr and Urapunga schools continue to enthusiastically receive the program, with EON's Project Manager having forged strong relationships with these communities.

At Ngukurr, EON delivered healthy eating and edible garden lessons to eight classes each week (primary and secondary) as well as delivering weekly classes at the early childhood centre, where a healthy-sized garden was established during the year. EON also regularly provided nutritious snacks and meals for the "Mums and Bubs" in the Families as First Teachers (FaFT) program.

With COVID-19 restrictions impacting resources and food available locally, the Katherine-based EON team supported Ngukurr with healthy meal packs, which were distributed by the local Project Manager to community families in need.

EON's healthy eating messages have strongly focused on the link between sugar- especially in soft drinks- and poor health. These lessons took on a new urgency when the pandemic shut-down led to poor food choices.

MYCDP Ngukurr Numbulwarr Pty Ltd, the local CDP, have assisted EON with some of the larger infrastructure projects at the school, helping build an outdoor teaching area, complete with pizza oven, fire pit and a bower shed.

The large garden at the school has been further expanded with the addition of around 25 mature fruit and native trees. As the garden is the only 'green space' at the school, it is an inviting area and an oasis for the children to explore. It is used every day by the students and usually weekly for a major school activity.

EON has collaborated with 'Stronger Communities', providing an outdoor cooking class in the EON garden in partnership with the Yugul Mangi Development Aboriginal Corporation. EON's Project Manager has also worked with Ngukurr's Remote School Attendance Strategy staff (RSAS) to participate in 'on country' learning, gathering local knowledge from the traditional owners of the land and a better understanding of the natural resources and how they are utilised.

EON and the RSAS have worked closely during the year, collaborating on events and activities to help support the school's attendance, since student attendance numbers have also been impacted by the pandemic.

At Ngukurr, Donald Hall has been mentored by EON's Project Manager and has made a strong contribution to the garden and school. He was joined earlier this year by Community Assistant Lorraine Harrison who worked at the childcare centre for a period.

At Urapunga, the EON gardens have produced harvests of vegetables such as sugarsnap peas, cucumber, tomato, runner beans, lebanese zucchini, spring onion, carrot, silverbeet, pumpkin and eggplant. EON delivered classes on a weekly basis and the school students continued to enjoy their cooking and food preparation lessons, using these fresh vegetables along with a variety of herbs picked from the garden.

"SOMETIMES I SAY TO MY GRANDMA
"GRANDMA WE'VE GOT A BIG GARDEN
AT OUR SCHOOL. SHE SAYS 'THAT'S
GOOD'. EVERYONE WHO COMES HERE TO
VISIT SAYS 'I LOVE THAT GARDEN!'"

- Student, 10 years, Urapunga



Owen Stronell, Project Manager, Ngukurr and Urapunga

MAINORU

WUGULARR (BESWICK) & BULMAN

As a result of staffing changes at the schools, the communities of Beswick and Bulman experienced a delayed program start, in comparison with the other Big Rivers communities.

At Bulman EON established three gardens on the school property: the front garden which is fenced and covered with bird-mesh, providing vegetables; the top garden providing pumpkins and sweet potatoes; and the melon patch which is fenced and covered with chicken wire, providing watermelons and rockmelons. These three gardens have ensured there has been regular opportunities to harvest produce throughout the year. EON has provided several lunchtime meals and sent children home with chunks of cabbage and pumpkin, whole sweet potatoes and cucumbers, as well as silverbeet and melons to share with their families.

EON has been delivering classes to children from preschool to early high school. Healthy eating lessons included the cooking of stir-fry vegetables, vegetable soup and pumpkin scones. Gardening lessons encompassed activities such as digging for sweet potatoes and spreading mulch, with the students relishing the opportunity to get their hands dirty!

Several partnerships have been prominent in the success of the EON project in Bulman, primarily the teaching staff at the school, with teachers often taking the children through the gardens. During the COVID-19 lockdown, the teachers led their classes in adopting and maintaining specific sections of the gardens.



Lindsay Cameron (left), Project Manager, Mainoru, and Josef Perner, Project Facilitator, Big Rivers Region (now Trainee Project Manager, Mainoru).

EON has also forged a positive relationship with the Mimal Rangers. The rangers have provided the nursery that is a central part of EON's teaching and propagation, and the Project Manager consults with them about bush tucker.

EON's program at the Wugularr School at Beswick experienced some challenges last year with the departure of the Project Manager due to illness. Commencing afresh in 2020, the incoming Project Manager began delivering classes. The Principal and staff were very welcoming and supportive and EON was assigned 1,000m² (1/4 acre) of the school property for a new and substantial edible garden.

Despite an interruption to the garden establishment due to COVID-19, when communities reopened EON quickly built and planted out the gardens. In addition to seven rows of vegetables, 40 fruit and bush-tucker trees and shrubs were included. With the erection of the garden fence completing the project, the garden is now thriving.

EON's edible garden lessons have focused on introducing the students to the new garden- now producing vegetables such as tomatoes, cabbages and spinach.

The local council has assisted EON with soil supplies, a local construction company has provided woodchip and the RSAS has supported EON with our work and school and community events.

GROOTE EYLANDT

ANGURUGU, UMBAKUMBA & MILYAKBURRA

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 have been maintained and fortnightly edible garden and healthy eating lessons were held in each school. EON also held regular classes with the 'Families as First Teachers' (FaFT) mothers and children. Produce from the garden was consumed by the children within school lessons, either freshly picked and eaten raw, or used to make nutritious and simple meals under EON's guidance.

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 continued to support the School Nutrition Program staff, providing them with fresh ideas for recipes and meals using the garden produce.

EON offered informal training to adult community members in all three communities.

At Milyakburra, Community Assistant Cherise Hall provided valued assistance to EON's Project Manager and continued to maintain the garden during the COVID-19 lockdown.

EON accepted an invitation to help with a two day visit to Milyakburra Island by 28 students from Alyangula School. We provided produce from the Umbakumba EON garden and the market garden at Angurugu. Healthy, nutritious food and beverages were prepared for the students, who enjoyed sampling fresh lemon cooler and cassava/banana smoothies.



Nicola Samson, Project Manager, Groote Eylandt



EON continued to build relationships with stakeholders and others operating in similar fields on Groote Eylandt, including GEBIE CDP, the Groote Eylandt Aboriginal Trust (GEAT) market garden, East Arnhem Youth Sport and Recreation, Bush Medijina, the School Nutrition Program, community radio programs, Bush Fit Mob and the Groote Eylandt Language Centre. These partnerships support the reinforcement of EON's key health and nutrition messages, provide a varied experience for participants and prevent the 'doubling up' of health service efforts.



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 consistently employed 25 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 five-year program.

During the COVID-19 travel restrictions, our local Community Assistants played a vital role, with greater delegation of responsibility to them to implement as many elements of the program as possible, under the remote guidance of EON's Project Managers.

LANCE ASHLEY



COMMUNITY ASSISTANT, PINE CREEK

"I was born in Katherine on Jawoyn Country and I live on Wagiman Country. I went to Primary School in Urapunga and Secondary School in Alice Springs. I moved to Pine Creek in 2013.

I started working as a volunteer at Pine Creek School in 2018 and I heard about the EON program when Nettie (EON Project Manager) started working in Pine Creek and Barunga. I was inspired by EON's mission and vision and how EON wants to help the community.

I started working as a Community Assistant with EON at Pine Creek School and Kybrook Farm in September 2019. I work both in the gardens and in the classrooms and I really enjoy helping teach students and community members about good nutrition. I have also been involved

in assisting with setting up EON's home fruit and vegetable gardens, including one in my own yard. I am interested in helping improve nutrition and health in community by education, and to create bush tucker food and medicine gardens at the school and in the community.

I am an Elder in my community and teach culture to young boys, including dance on-country. I am also a preacher and do a lot of volunteer work with my community.

My motto is 'Quick to Listen, Slow to Talk'.

My future aim is to become a Project Manager with EON*. I would like to be a mentor for other Community Assistants and a mentor for the kids at school.

I would like to see EON expand into other NT communities."

* Lance Ashley has recently been promoted to Trainee Project Manager, Central Arnhem.



SHANNON SIMPSON



COMMUNITY ASSISTANT, YALGOO

"I was born in Geraldton and raised here in Yalgoo. I'm working with EON at Yalgoo Primary where I went to school.

I help Sally (EON Project Manager) with giving cooking classes to the students, teaching them about healthy food choices and with the garden classes, where the students learn about planting and harvesting.

I also help with garden maintenance and have been learning some new skills such as how to install reticulation.

I really enjoy working with the children in my community. I am from a family of 8 (my youngest sibling is aged 3) so I have plenty of experience!

When not working with EON, I like to relax in the garden and I enjoy taking walks around town."

BRUCE COX (SHORTY) AND ANTHONY DAWSON



COMMUNITY ASSISTANTS, YIYILI

SHORTY

"I am 33 years old and a Gooniyandi man. I live in Guninyi- a camp that is around 7kms from Yiyili school.

I went to Yiyili school when I was a child and my two high-school age kids attend the school now."

ANTHONY

"I am 40 years old and a Gooniyandi man. I live in Pull Out- a camp that is around 2kms from Yiyili school. I also attended Yiyili school when I was a child."

SHORTY & ANTHONY

"We heard about the job from Leon (the school groundskeeper) and we started working at the beginning of the 2020 school year.

We do a bit of everything- gardening, planting, weeding, irrigation. We love to see different veggies coming up just from soil and seed - watching them grow into something you can eat.

We teach the kids about the garden and the food we are growing and take the high school kids for lessons. We do lots of cooking as well.

We make plans together before we work and if Erika (EON Project Manager) is away we make lists of things to work on in the gardens and with the kids.

We love working for EON because we are getting to know all of the veggies and cooking them up and trying new things. We like working as part of the school and keeping the school and the kids safe and healthy.

The kids love EON because they get to be outside and they get excited when the garden is growing food. They are learning about growing food that is good for them.

We think the program is really good because it grows fresh veggies and gets the kids involved. We also have gardens in Guninyi and Pull Out and it's good to see kids pick and eat food from a garden at home too.

We love working as a team in the garden."

GUISEPPE PARRY (CHAPPY)



"THE SCHOOL COOKS HAVE BEEN USING FRESH VEGETABLES FROM THE GARDEN AS OPPOSED TO STORE-BOUGHT GOODS, WHICH GIVES THE STUDENTS HEALTHY FOOD EVERY DAY. THE GARDENS THEMSELVES ARE WONDERFUL AND BRING THE SCHOOL TO LIFE."

- Principal, Yiyili

COMMUNITY ASSISTANT, MINYERRI

"My family is from Woody country. I grew up and went to school in Darwin. I now live on a small station about 700kms from Darwin.

I have lots of relatives that go to Minyerri school. I started as a cleaner at the school and then when EON came I met Donna (EON Project Manager) and heard about the program.

I work every day in the garden doing all different jobs like weeding and planting. I have a small greenhouse at my place and have grown seedlings there which I then bring to the garden- tomatoes, spring onion and cabbage. My favourite foods from the garden are chillies, garlic and onion.

The kids love the EON program. I also help with the cooking classes- the kids love cutting food up, cooking and then they also take stuff home so they can cook up for their families.

When I am not working in the garden, in my spare time I like to go fishing.

I have learned a lot from working with EON. I love working in the EON garden – it keeps me busy every day.

I have seen people walk past the garden and take a photo of it because it looks so good."



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 WA and share resources with these partners.



"EON HAS GREAT RELATIONSHIPS WITH COMMUNITIES WHICH MAKES IT VERY EASY FOR US TO ENTER THESE COMMUNITIES AS PARTNERS OF EON. A MAJOR ACHIEVEMENT OF OUR PARTNERSHIP IS THE SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT IN FOOD LITERACY KNOWLEDGE WE HAVE SEEN AMONG STUDENTS."

- Pilbara Population Health (WA)





Examples of collaboration include:

- In the East Pilbara, EON collaborated on school holiday programs at both Nullagine and Jigalong, partnering with Ngurra Kujungka (who lead the Western Desert's community-driven sports program) and with other stakeholders including Jigalong Police, KJ Rangers, Nullagine Police and the Nullagine Community Resource Centre.
- In the Pilbara EON continued its valued partnerships with both Foodbank WA and Pilbara Population Health, regularly combining activities to boost engagement with the students.
- In the Kimberley, EON continued to liaise with Nindilingarri Cultural Health Nutritionists to coordinate nutrition lessons and menus at Yiyili to ensure consistent health and nutrition messages to children and their families.
- At Jilkminggan, EON collaborated with the Roper Gulf Regional Council to deliver healthy eating classes and 'planting a veggie garden' sessions as part of their school holiday program in December 2019.
- At Pine Creek, EON engaged with the Wagiman Rangers program, with the EON Project Manager and National Operations Manager attending the Wagiman Ranger Advisory Group meeting in Pine Creek in December last year. Opportunities discussed included creating an Indigenous garden at Kybrook Farm, forming a Junior Rangers Group at the school and establishing a veggie garden at Rangers HQ.

- At Ngukurr, EON collaborated with 'Stronger Communities', providing an outdoor cooking class in the EON Garden in partnership with the Yugul Mangi Development Aboriginal Corporation.

EON Project Managers liaise with local Community Development Program providers (CDP) to promote involvement by community members in supporting the installation and maintenance of the EON edible gardens. Mutually beneficial partnerships with CDP providers across all communities continue to be developed by EON Project Managers.

Examples include:

- In the NT EON continued to build a relationship with Nyirringgulung-Rise, who have taken over the operations of the CDP in Barunga, Bulman and Beswick, and with Rise who have taken over CDP operations at Pine Creek (Kybrook Farm). EON also continues its relationship with Roper Gulf Regional Council at Jilkminggan and with Alawa Aboriginal Corporation at Minyerri.
- In Ngukurr and Urapunga, an MOU was signed with MYCDP Ngukurr Numbulwarr Pty Ltd who have assisted EON with some of the larger infrastructure projects at Ngukurr school, helping build an outdoor teaching area, complete with pizza oven, fire pit and a bower shed. EON is also in the planning stages of building a community garden on the old horse yards with the CDP and Yugul Mangi Development Aboriginal Corporation.

- In the Mid-West of WA EON continued relationship building with Yulella Aboriginal Corporation's CDP participants in Meekatharra and Mount Magnet.
- At Yiyili, EON supports Marra Worra Worra Aboriginal Corporation with a community horticulture project, and the organisation supplies equipment and machinery for EON's use.

Other service providers with whom we have collaborated or partnered with in Western Australia include: North Regional TAFE, Central Regional TAFE, Mission Australia, Boab Health, Child Australia and World Vision.

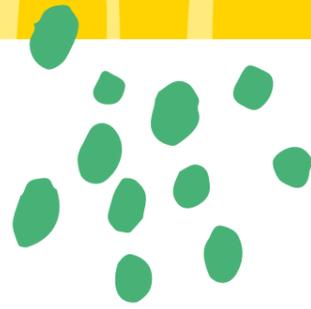
Additional service providers with whom we have collaborated or partnered with in the Northern Territory include: Sunrise, Food Ladder, Families as First Teachers (FaFT) and Stronger Communities for Children (SCFC).

"THE COMMUNITY LOVE HAVING EON OUT AND THE POSITIVITY IT GENERATES WITHIN THE WHOLE OF THE COMMUNITY."

- Roper Gulf Regional Council



WHAT'S NEXT



GROW MORE FOOD AND GROW OUR IMPACT...

The EON Thriving Communities Program has expanded significantly in recent times with the commencement of three new communities in WA and nine new communities in the NT. However our waiting list of communities that have requested to join the program remains, with new communities reaching out to us. Our focus is on raising the funds to meet this demand and improve the health outcomes for children and adults in remote Aboriginal communities.

Priorities for 2020/2021 include:

- Secure ongoing funding to reach more communities, supporting healthier lives for more school children and their families across remote Western Australia and the Northern Territory.

- Review EON's training and induction and develop an Aboriginal employment strategy to provide career development and a pathway for more Aboriginal employees.
- Continue tailoring the program in existing locations to maximise the strengths of each community, engaging in garden expansions, employment of local assistants and more tailored nutrition education and horticultural training.
- Continue supporting communities where possible to continue the program in their preferred form, after 5 years of partnership with EON.

PLEASE HELP US GROW



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 2020/2021 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 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, 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 Recipient status so all donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

"I DONATE TO EON BECAUSE I BELIEVE A HEALTHY START TO LIFE IS ONE OF THE GREATEST GIFTS WE CAN GIVE OUR CHILDREN."

– EON Foundation Donor

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW 2019/2020

OPERATING RESULT

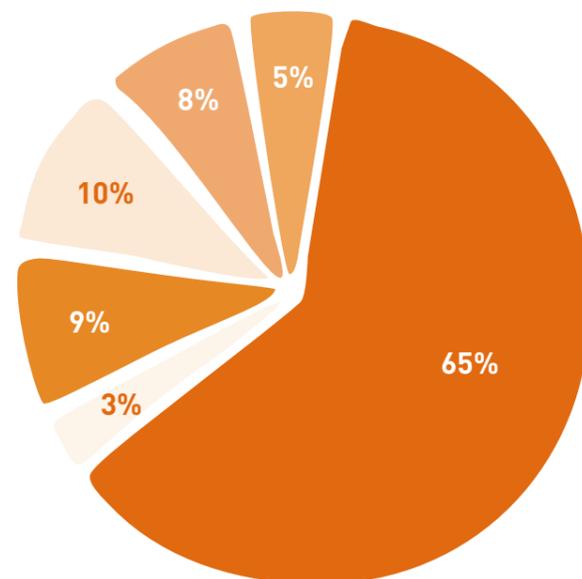
Income for the year to 30 June 2020 was \$2,800.0k compared with \$2,025.0k in 2018-19, representing a year-on-year increase in revenue of 38.3%. Expenditure was \$2,590.3k in the period compared to \$1,853.2k in 2018-19, increasing 39.8%. As a result, EON recorded a net surplus of \$209.7k for the 2019-20 financial year, versus \$171.8k in the prior year.

The revenue increase in the year is primarily driven by higher income recognised from the Australian Government Department of Health, reflecting a full year of operations of the EON Thriving Communities Program in the Northern Territory communities (versus approximately five months of the program in 2018-19). In addition, donations and other income increased year-on-year, however, this was largely offset by lower income recognised relating to other grants.

The 2019-20 surplus largely reflects general donations and interest received in the year, which will be mainly allocated to fund due diligence on potential new communities and provide ongoing support to communities which have completed the full EON program, along with further program development.

EON continues to maintain a strong focus on cost control, partly assisted by 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



- 65% Federal Government Grants
- 3% State Government Grants
- 9% Aboriginal Land Councils
- 10% Other Grants (including Corporate)
- 8% Donations
- 5% Other Income

65% of EON's funding was from Federal Government grants in 2019-20, with the remainder balanced across a number of funding sources.

Federal government funding increased from 52% in 2018-19 to 65% in 2019-20, reflecting a full year of operations in the new Northern Territory communities.

The State Government of Western Australia continued to support EON in 2019-20 through a funding agreement with the Department of Communities to partially fund EON's work in the Mid-West region of Western Australia. The contribution to overall funding decreased from 5% in 2018-19 to 3% in 2019-20.

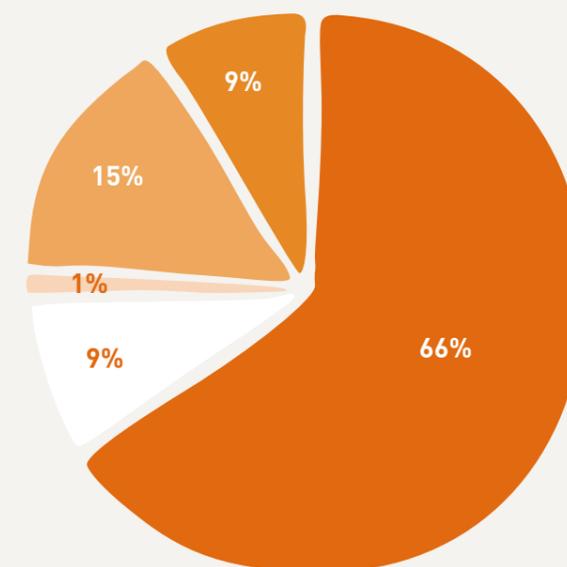
Aboriginal Land Councils (GEBIE) contributed 9% of total income in 2019-20 (versus 14% in 2018-19), which partly reflects some vacancy savings due to staff changes during the year. Other Grants contributed 10% of income (versus 17% in 2018-19), which included ongoing funding partners such as BHP and Sandfire Resources NL.

Income from other grants reduced year-on-year due to the completion of several grants in 2018-19 and the impact of the adoption of new accounting standards in the 2019-20 financial year.

13% of EON's funding in 2019-20 came from donations and other income, up from 12% in 2018-19. This included philanthropic donations from the Bass Family Foundation, donations from members of the public, income from fundraising activities, income from a workplace giving program with Chevron, bequests, interest earned on unspent funds and the COVID cash flow boost.

EON is grateful to all its financial supporters who are acknowledged on page 54.

HOW THE FUNDING IS EXPENDED



- 66% Labour Costs
- 9% Administrative Costs
- 1% Consultancy Costs
- 15% Remote Access Costs
- 9% Program Costs

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, IT, education and due diligence.

THANK YOU



WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE MANY INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE SUPPORTED EON INCLUDING OUR BOARD MEMBERS, OUR AMBASSADOR DR 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 OUR OUTCOMES, IN PARTICULAR THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH.

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 to help grow healthier communities.

EON is thankful to the many organisations who have provided pro bono or significantly subsidised professional services in support of our work. As always, we wish to thank and acknowledge our pro bono legal advisors, Clayton Utz and particular thanks this year also to Hive Design and Beautiful Pictures. Finally, we would like to acknowledge the fantastic support of The Brand Agency who have assisted us with the production of our Annual Report over many years.



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EON Foundation is sincerely thankful for the support of our 2019/2020 funding partners, corporate supporters and generous donors without whom we would not exist.

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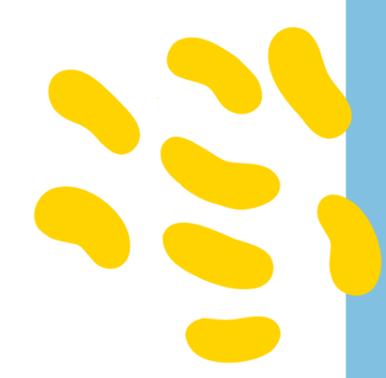
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Lindsay Cameron Project Manager, Mainoru District (incoming)

**** Josef Perner** Project Facilitator, Big Rivers Region

Andrea O'Loughlin Project Officer, Mid-West

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Ezra Mamarika Groote Eylandt

Selwyn Samson Groote Eylandt

Cherise Hall Groote Eylandt

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Barry Bates Central Arnhem

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Lana Miller Central Arnhem

Lloyd Mundul Central Arnhem

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***Tyrone Hand** Central Kimberley

***Shannon (Lee) Vanbee**

Central Kimberley

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AUDITOR

Dry Kirkness

*employed directly by their respective schools with EON reimbursing the school the wages for EON's work.

**recently promoted to Trainee Project Manager, Mainoru.

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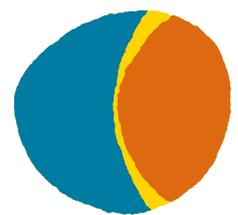
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