



EON Aboriginal
Foundation

November 2024

INSIGHTS



EON's Karen is Aussie Food Educator of the Year!

Selected from thousands of entries, Karen Dack, EON's Project Manager for Kalkaringi and Katherine in the NT, has been named the inaugural Australian Food Educator of the Year in the Jamie Oliver Food Hero Awards. We couldn't be prouder of Karen and her achievements (*Pictured 2nd from the right, front row*).

“Karen’s work, like that of all our Project Managers across WA and the NT, is truly remarkable. She’s our energizer bunny – her enthusiasm, passion, hard work, and love for the children she works with is contagious. It’s fantastic to see her receive this well-deserved, global recognition. This award also shines a spotlight on the dedicated efforts of remote communities who are working to improve nutrition and prevent disease by partnering with Karen and EON,” said Executive Chair Caroline de Mori AM. Congratulations, Karen!

[Watch the big reveal!](#)

“

Karen's commitment to promoting health and nutrition at school and within the community is truly exceptional. She has an incredible ability to engage students of all ages, making healthy eating both fun and accessible.

Through her hands-on lessons and creative approach, she empowers children and community members alike with the knowledge and skills to make healthier food choices for life. Karen's passion for improving the well-being of our students and community makes her an invaluable asset to the school.

Senior Teacher, NT



The EON program is thriving at Ampilatwatja

In May this year, work began in the remote Central Australian community of Ampilatwatja to transform a patch of red dirt into a thriving community garden for local food production and healthy eating classes.

The students and community have been actively engaged every step of the way, contributing ideas, effort, and enthusiasm. Thanks to their commitment, just six months later, the garden has blossomed into a green oasis, overflowing with fresh produce.

The pride in the garden is unmistakable, with watering duties becoming a hotly contested activity. Fresh vegetables and herbs are now regularly harvested and used in healthy meals prepared during cooking classes. Favorites such as garden veggie quiche, feta and spinach rolls, and chimichurri highlight the success of this collaborative effort, blending gardening, nutrition, and cooking into a sustainable community initiative.



Meet Chris, our Community Assistant in Rangeway

It was our lucky day when Chris Harrington (pictured left) applied to join the EON team working at Rangeway in WA's Mid-West.

While born in Karratha, Chris grew up in Rangeway and attended the very primary school where he now works with EON – where his younger sibling is still a student. After Rangeway, he continued his education at Champion Bay Senior High School. A highlight of those years was his involvement with the Clontarf Academy, where he participated in cooking and footy programs and took on a leadership role, mentoring younger students and running incursions at other schools.

A passionate home gardener, Chris learned about “this job working on edible gardens with the kids at school” through a friend and thought, *“That’s for me.”* His role at EON includes building and maintaining the gardens, assisting with cooking and gardening classes, and actively participating in

community engagement. Just this week, he traveled to Yalgoo for an EON working bee. What does he love most about his work? *"I make a change every day."*

Looking to the future, Chris has his sights set on becoming an EON Project Manager, and the team is excited to support him in achieving this goal.

Thank you, Chris, for your dedication and for being such an integral part of the EON team!



A bright future

We are delighted to share that EON Aboriginal Foundation has secured funding from the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA).

This is a significant funding agreement, allowing EON to continue to deliver our program with our long term partner communities across remote WA and the NT until June 2026. We extend our heartfelt thanks to the NIAA for its support of our work.

Recently, EON had the honour of showcasing our initiatives to new audiences as the chosen donor recipient for the National Family Law Conference and at the Women in Mining WA Conference. At the latter event, Dr. Rishelle Hume AM, EON's

Ambassador, delivered a presentation highlighting her work with EON.

EON remains committed to diversifying our funding sources to support program expansion and meet the growing demand from communities on our waiting list. We are deeply grateful to the organising committees of both conferences for inviting us to share our story and for their support. Thank you for helping us grow and make a difference!

[Our Partners](#)



In the media...

Images of the impressive harvest from the Barunga community garden in the Big Rivers region of the NT recently caught the attention of a *Women's Weekly* journalist. The December issue features a fantastic spread titled *The Land of the Giants*, showcasing the abundant produce grown in the garden.

While the photos are striking, the true story lies in how this produce is used. EON works closely with students and community members to make the most of the harvest, including preserving, pickling, making sauces and pastes, or hosting community-wide cook-ups. This process highlights the

connection between local food production and its practical use, an essential part of improving food security.

EON's work has also been celebrated in recent media coverage on ABC Radio in Alice Springs and Darwin, reflecting the strong interest in the impactful programs delivered in remote locations.



Help our orchards grow
this Christmas - gift a tree
today!

**This holiday season, give the gift of growth with
EON's Christmas Appeal.**

By gifting a tree, you're not just planting a seed, but investing in the future of remote Aboriginal communities. Each tree will be nurtured in our community orchards, helping to provide fresh, healthy produce that supports food security.

Your gift will help grow not only fruit trees but also skills, empowerment, and sustainability. With your support, students and families will continue to learn about healthy eating and food production, creating lasting change in their communities.

[Donate today](#)

Thank you so much to all our generous donors who make our work possible.



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