

September 2025

INSIGHTS



What a growing season in the remote north

From the red pindan soils of the Dampier Peninsula, across the cracking clays of the East Kimberley, to the red desert sands of Central Australia – EON gardens are producing bumper crops.

EON gardens in the warmer north have been bursting with life. Veggies, herbs and fruits are harvested regularly – providing fresh, healthy (and free) produce for the students, their families and community members. Lots of cooking in the garden, making the most of the dry season days. Beetroot burgers, vegetable kebabs, kale chips. Zucchini fritters for days! Any extras? They're transformed into pickles, pastes and sauces to enjoy long after

harvest. Seeds from strong producing plants are collected and stored, ready to plant out to grow seedlings for the next season.

The abundant harvests are a true testament to each community's commitment – months of rolling up sleeves and getting hands dirty to nurture healthy soil and thriving plants.

[Image: A morning's harvest in Ampilatwatja, 4 hours drive from Alice Springs]

Where does EON work?



Lett-uce tell you about Looma 🌱

Every community is different, and our programs reflect that. Unlike programs that build infrastructure and move on, EON stays connected, providing ongoing support to keep gardens thriving and programs sustainable.

In the Kimberley community of Looma, the edible garden has been community-run for 15 years since completing EON's Thriving Communities Program. Our WA Operations Manager visits each term and

provides phone support, but it's the community that keeps things growing.

Local man, Danny, plays a key role in looking after the garden – and produce is shared widely amongst the community, including with Looma's Aged Care facility. On the last EON visit, the community cooked up healthy burgers in the garden. And on the most recent visit, hot weather crops were planted.

A perfect example of how EON's model creates lasting, community-led change.



Feast on Gurindji Country!

It is fifty years since Prime Minister Gough Whitlam poured sand into Vincent Lingiari's hand, returning land to the Gurindji people.

The Freedom Day Festival is an annual celebration of this moment in history and brings people together from across the nation. In the lead up to this year's celebration, the students from Kalkaringi willingly took on the task of providing lunch for the large crowd.

Putting their EON garden and cooking skills into action, the kids served up a feast that wowed everyone — kangaroo tail, hearty veggie stew packed with home-grown produce, fresh salads, and

juicy chicken kebabs. It was a delicious showcase of their hard work in the garden, their flair in the kitchen and hospitality skills.



Hear it from the experts



When Luke and Daniel from Ardiol Creative recently visited remote communities in the Big Rivers Region, they didn't just film – they handed the cameras over to the kids.

The students proudly showed off their gardens, walked Luke and Dan through every bed, pointed out their favourite veggies, and even cooked lunch straight from the garden.

Community members shared how having fresh fruit and vegetables has made a real difference to their health and daily lives.

We can't wait to share their voices and stories with you later this year as we celebrate 20 years of EON impact.

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Students have fewer persistent infections, faster recoveries, better iron levels, and increased concentration and energy.

Teachers and Health Staff commenting on observable changes to student health after participating in the EON program.



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