

March 2026

INSIGHTS



When the roads close, the shelves empty

Remote First Nations communities are once again facing insecure food supplies due to major flooding.

Massive rainfall across remote WA and the NT has cut road access to many of the First Nations communities where EON Aboriginal Foundation works. In some places, roads may remain closed for weeks.

When supply trucks can't get through, the impact is felt immediately. Fresh fruit and vegetables disappear from store shelves. Food becomes scarce and more expensive. Families are left with fewer choices.

In one of the wealthiest countries in the world, it is confronting that children and families can still face empty shelves when supply chains are disrupted.

These moments highlight just how fragile remote food systems can be and why strengthening reliable, community-based sources of fresh food matters. When communities have the skills and infrastructure to grow, cook and preserve food locally, they are less dependent on long and vulnerable supply chains.

We acknowledge the steps being taken under the leadership of the Minister for Indigenous Australians and the growing national focus on food security, while recognising that much more remains to be done.

We also welcome the recent Yamagigu Consulting report on Food Security in Remote First Nations Communities. Following extensive consultation, it confirms what communities have long said: priorities for action include growing and producing food locally, and building practical life skills such as cooking, budgeting and healthy eating.

Most importantly, our thoughts are with the communities navigating these disruptions – once again.

Every day, through school gardens and community kitchens, EON works alongside communities to strengthen these skills and build local food resilience for the future.

[Photo credit: Action Alice Springs Photo Location: Amplawataj]



It's all smiles at Mullewa

Thanks to the amazing generosity of Channel 7 Telethon Trust (Telethon)

We're incredibly grateful that EON Aboriginal Foundation is once again a proud recipient of funding from Telethon in 2026.

This year, Telethon will support the Thriving Communities Program in Mullewa, a small Mid West WA community where the program first began in April last year thanks to the generosity of an individual donor. Seeing the program take root has been exciting – and knowing that Telethon's grant will now underpin delivery throughout 2026 gives the work real momentum.

One of the highlights at Mullewa is the strength of the local team. Three First Nations community members are now working alongside the EON Project Manager, assisting with maintaining the garden and delivering nutrition and cooking sessions. Beyond their practical contributions, the cultural knowledge and community connections they bring are invaluable.

We're grateful to the Remote Jobs and Economic Development Program for funding these part-time roles.



Milestone at Kalkaringi and Yarralin

Working together for children, families and healthy futures.

There's plenty to celebrate as EON Aboriginal Foundation enters the fifth year of its Thriving Communities Program partnership with the remote Northern Territory communities of Kalkaringi and Yarralin.

From the very beginning, this work has been strengthened by the support of a passionate and committed third partner. Since 2022, The Smith Family, as Facilitating Partner for the Federal Government's *Communities for Children* initiative in Katherine, has provided vital funding to help the program flourish.

Thanks to this partnership, edible gardens are thriving at local schools, children are learning practical cooking and nutrition skills, and healthy food is becoming a visible and celebrated part of everyday community life.

Importantly, The Smith Family's role also connects EON into the Communities for Children Katherine network – a collaboration of organisations working together to strengthen outcomes for children and families across the region. This place-based, whole-of-community approach helps ensure that families in Kalkaringi and Yarralin are supported through a coordinated network of services, knowledge and care.



Welcome Leisha

We're delighted to welcome Leisha Aberle as EON's WA Operations Manager.

Leisha brings a wealth of experience in nutrition and public health, with a strong focus on improving food security and health outcomes. She began her career at Foodbank WA, leading hands-on nutrition education and cooking programs in regional and remote Aboriginal communities, before moving into the public sector to lead projects strengthening local food environments.

Passionate about food, cooking and gardening, Leisha loves working alongside communities on the ground.

Leisha steps into the WA role as Erika Wells transitions to the position of NT Operations Manager, continuing her work with EON in the Northern Territory.

Welcome to the team, Leisha – we're thrilled to have you with us.

“
I'd like to grow more food so my family can come when EON is here.
”
Student



You too can help us grow!

Real change takes time.

EON works alongside communities for five years to embed the knowledge, skills and confidence needed to improve health across generations.

Communities are ready to act.

With your support, we can:

- Ensure our current partner communities complete the full five-year program
- Begin new partnerships with communities waiting to start now

Communities are ready. With your support, we can begin today.

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

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