



MEDIA STATEMENT

EDIBLE GARDEN UNDERWAY IN REMOTE COMMUNITY



4 December 2007

Eating enough fresh fruit and veg proves difficult for city dwellers, but when you live more than 200 kilometres from the nearest town, it can be a big problem.

However, a new initiative to develop “Edible Gardens” in remote communities, is set to provide a solution.

In a unique partnership between EON Foundation, the UFPA and the Djarindjin/Lombadina School, and Djarindjin and Lombadina Communities, 200 kilometres north of Broome, work has started on the first Edible Garden, with planting and cropping due in 2008.

The President of the UFPA, Mr Ernie Bridge, and EON Foundation Director Mrs Katrina Burton, jointly announced today that the development of an edible garden at the Djarindjin-Lombadina Community School had begun.

The project will be supported by EON and UFPA for up to three years, with the direct participation of the schoolchildren and the community, with the expectation that once the garden is fully established it will be maintained by the community.

The EON Foundation is currently providing substantial financial assistance to the UFPA’s Diabetes Management and Care Program in remote communities.

EON Foundation conceived the Edible Garden project in early 2007 and developed plans in consultation with Sabrina Hahn, a noted landscape designer and horticulturalist. Sabrina Hahn brings to the program technical expertise and knowledge in design and gardening.

The primary objective of the project will be to complement the Unity of First People of Australia’s Diabetes Management & Care Program now operating successfully in the communities. Diabetes education is a key element in the work being done in partnership with community members, in particular, the school, to bring about a change to a healthy lifestyle through good nutrition.

Mr Bridge and Mrs Burton congratulated the school and the communities for accepting the initiative for development in their community and to assume the ongoing responsibilities for its sustainability.

Diabetes education is heavily focused on diet and nutrition to assist communities in the prevention of the onset of diabetes, and the Edible Garden will be a major contributor to better health outcomes in the years to come.

CONTACT: Ernie Bridge (0419 969 897 or 08 9321 7997)
Katrina Burton (0402 072 072) www.eon.org.au