



# Supporting Australian children & young people



How the partnership between the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Foundation and Costa Group supports the health and wellbeing of children across Australia.



Generous funding from Costa Group has supported Australian children and young people to experience the Kitchen Garden Program so they can form positive food, health, wellbeing, educational and sustainability habits for life.

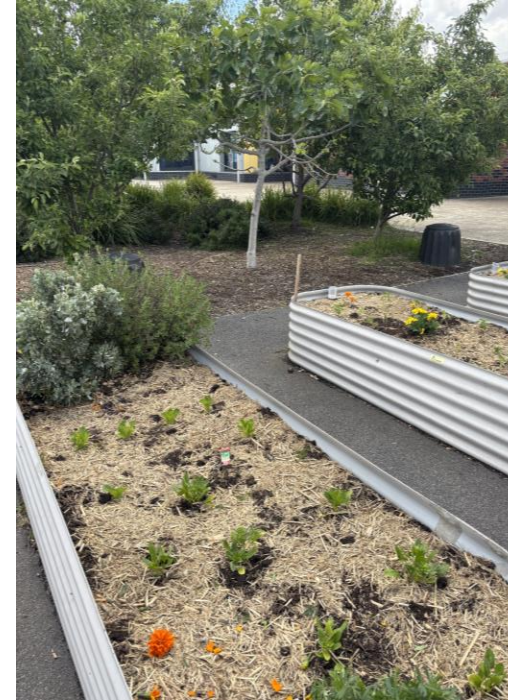
We are proud to provide a report on the impact of this partnership.

# Our partnership

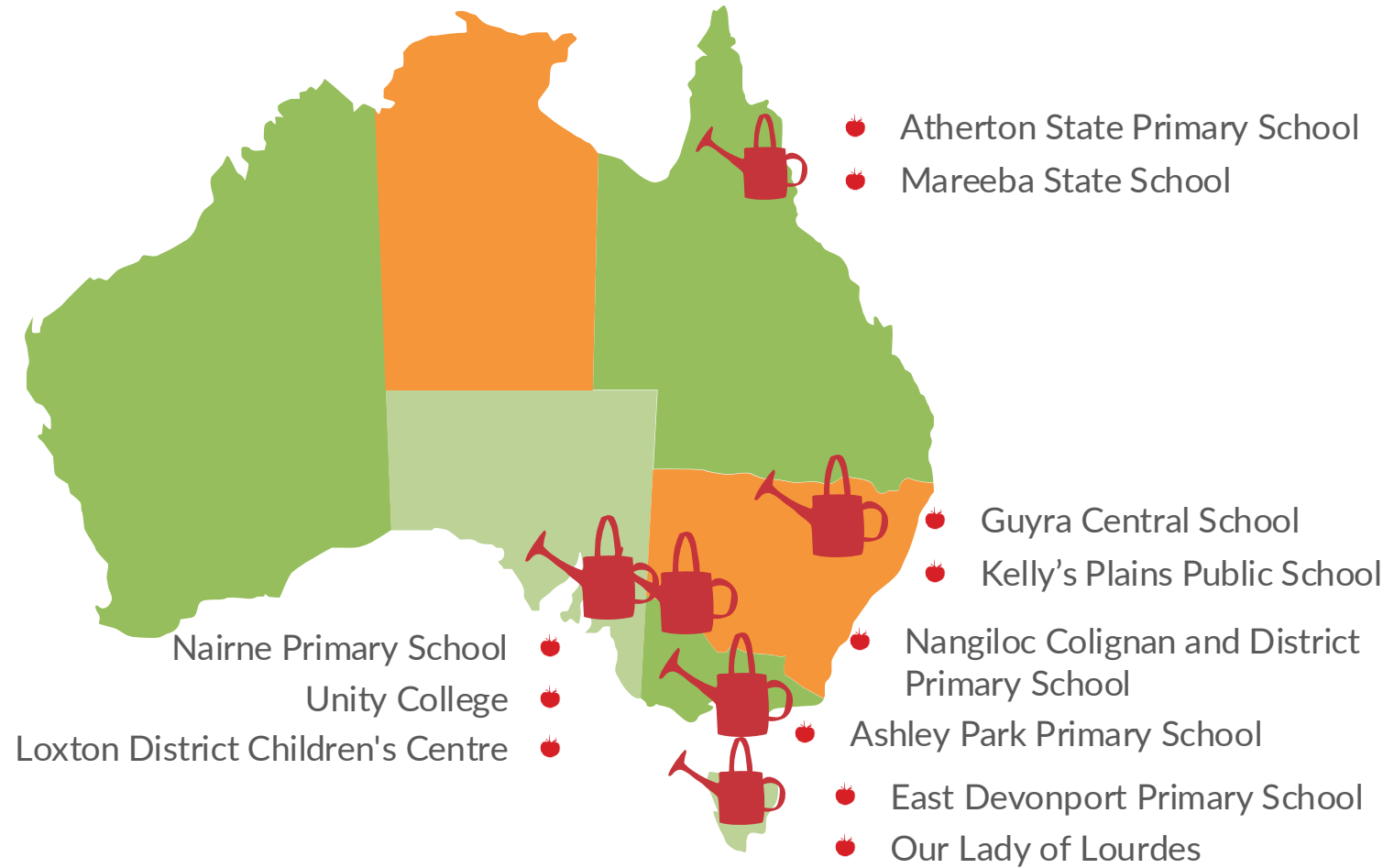
The values-aligned partnership between Costa Group and SAKGF supports children and young people to develop positive food habits for life, in communities where Costa Group operates farms fostering connections between education, agriculture, Costa staff and the community.

As Australia's leading grower of fresh produce, Costa Group knows that food literacy is key to food and nutrition security.

SAKGF is the national leader in hands-on pleasurable food education, supporting over 1000 Australian primary and secondary schools and early childhood services, run a Kitchen Garden Program in all areas of Australia.



In 2025, Costa Group have supported **3,744** children at **11** schools & services across Australia.





Approximately **328,003** fresh, seasonal and delicious meals were shared this year thanks to the Costa sponsored membership & grants.

# About the Kitchen Garden Program

The globally recognised Kitchen Garden Program is a positive, preventative health and education program supporting cross-curriculum learning and development outcomes including STEM, literacy, cultural studies, health, PE and the arts, while improving school engagement and social connection.

At the heart of the Kitchen Garden Program is pleasurable food education, which inspires children and young people to understand and connect with fresh, seasonal, delicious food through fun, hands-on, active learning in the kitchen and garden.

This evidence-based approach empowers students to form positive food, health, wellbeing, educational and sustainability habits for life.

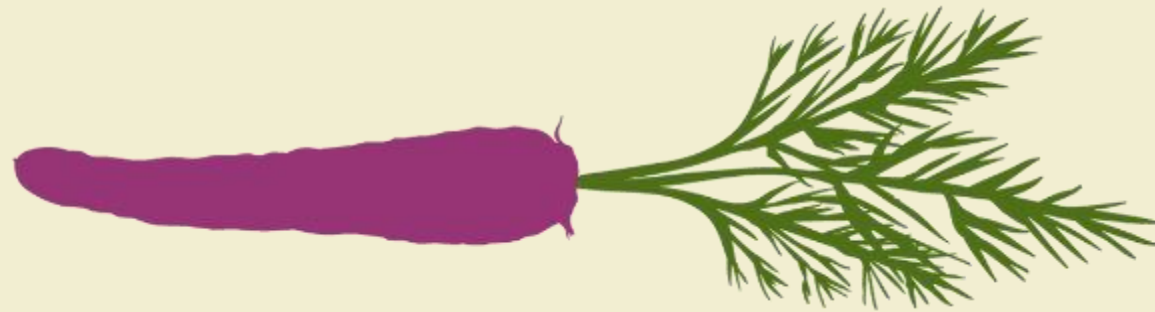


# Grant recipients were provided with

- 24 Month Kitchen Garden Program Membership
- Sector-specific printed educational resources with links to the Australian Curriculum.
- Access to the Shared Table, our online resource library and community hub with 1200+ resources including recipes, kitchen and garden activities, videos, and lesson plans.
- 1-on-1 support via phone, email, and Zoom from our experienced Support Team, 5 days a week.
- Access to Professional Development webinars, including our dedicated 'Kitchen Garden Ready' Webinar, and a number of seasonal Program Enrichments Workshops.
- \$1,500 to put towards infrastructure to kickstart their Kitchen Garden Program.



Highlights from the 2025  
Sponsored Membership & Grant recipients



The Costa Sponsored Membership & Grants have influenced the positive food habits of children & young people at 11 schools and services



“The grant has allowed the school to improve our ability to deliver our kitchen garden program and support students learning!”

REBECCA WOOD, SCHOOL SUPPORT OFFICER, GUYRA CENTRAL SCHOOL, NSW

Thanks to Costa Group's generous funding, an impressive **299** Kitchen Classes and **384** Garden Classes were delivered by Kitchen Garden Program educators during the reporting period.



# Flexible funding

The flexible funding is valued by schools who have been able to use the grant for the highest impact according to their unique needs and program goals, including cooking equipment, aprons, kitchen knives, air fryers, blenders, fig trees, hoses, wheelbarrows, wicking beds, garden paths and sheds!



Watering Infrastructure



Garden Beds



Outdoor learning

# Improvements in food literacy and behavior

- 🍷 90% observed improvements in gardening knowledge, confidence and skills
- 🍷 90% observed improvements in cooking knowledge, confidence and skills
- 🍷 80% observed improvements in willingness to try new foods
- 🍷 90% observed improvements in recognition of fruits and vegetables

Many schools, including Nangiloc Colignan & District Primary School and Unity College, have introduced students to new flavours and encouraged them to **try diverse vegetables**.

Students across all schools have developed **essential life skills**, including cooking, gardening, and food preparation.

By growing their own food, schools are promoting **sustainable food practices** and **strengthening their local communities with fresh food access**.



“

Lots of students have commented they cook with their parents/grandparents while others have built confidence and new skills to be able to say “I want to do this at home.” .”

KALI VINCENT, KITCHEN GARDEN SSO, NAIRNE PRIMARY SCHOOL SA

# Establishing a Kitchen Garden Program has improved the wellbeing of students and staff.

- 🍷 90% reported improvements in social skills
- 🍷 90% reported improvement in student resilience

Nairne Primary's KGP has supported the development of students **social skills, inclusivity** and **resilience**, with some students using the garden as a space to regulate their emotions.

Five schools, including Ashley Park, Kellys Plains Public and East Devonport Primary have reported observed improvements in **student engagement and attendance**, as the excitement and engagement of the garden has captivated students.

Guyra Central and Our Lady of Lourdes have observed a sense of **joy and pride** in their students, as well as growing **perseverance**, when sharing food they have grown and prepared.



# Schools and services report that their Kitchen Garden Programs reach priority populations.

- 🍅 80% reported that their program reached people from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse backgrounds
- 🍅 90% reported reaching Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- 🍅 100% reported reaching students with diverse abilities
- 🍅 100% reported reaching people of low socio-economic status

Loxton District Children's Centre have embraced community involvement, **inviting educators, families and children to engage in consultation for the planning of their garden.**

Loxton District also enjoyed a visit from their local Costa Group team members, enjoying a delicious donation of oranges. The Children's Centre reflected that this support was particularly appreciated as **many of their families work as primary producers**, and are particularly feeling the crunch at the moment.

Atherton State Primary are among 6 schools and services who report their Kitchen Garden Program is linked to the cross-curriculum priority of **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures**



# The Sponsored Membership & Grants have created opportunities for schools to involve their whole community.

- 🍅 78% reported improvements in collaborative partnerships with families.
- 🍅 90% reported improvements in connection with community organisations.
- 🍅 40% are already reporting improvements to local food access for their community.

Through farmers markets, volunteering and harvest stalls, Unity College, Nairne Primary School and Kellys Plains Public have embraced community involvement, **inviting families to participate in gardening activities and share in the harvest.**

Atherton states **P&C committee** has raised over \$2,000 for the Kitchen Garden Program, throwing their full support behind the momentum built in 2025.

**The Seed Library** at East Devonport Primary provides free vegetable, herb and flower seeds and a place to swap produce and plants to the **wider community.**



# Schools & services utilised their Sponsored Membership & Grants to establish core infrastructure and ensure sustainability of their Kitchen Garden Program.

- 🍅 90% reported that their learning environments are now more inclusive, accessible and interactive.

Nairne Primary have invested in a **rainwater catchment** and new **composting bays**.

Ashley Park and Nangiloc have transformed under utilized spaces into thriving learning environments, **creating greenhouses and outdoor learning areas**.





The Kitchen Garden Program has created opportunities for learning across the curriculum.



# Curriculum Learning Areas

- 🍅 90% reported that their Kitchen Garden Program enabled teaching of the **Health and Physical Activity** curriculum
- 🍅 70% reported that their Kitchen Garden Program enabled teaching of the **Mathematics** curriculum
- 🍅 90% reported that their Kitchen Garden Program enabled teaching of the **Science** curriculum
- 🍅 70% reported that their Kitchen Garden Program enabled teaching of the **English** curriculum

# Cross Curriculum Priorities

- 🍅 100% reported that their Kitchen Garden Program enabled teaching of the **Sustainability** curriculum
- 🍅 60% reported that their Kitchen Garden Program enabled teaching of the **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures** curriculum



# Curriculum General Capabilities

- 🍅 90% reported that their Kitchen Garden Program enabled student development in alignment with the curriculum general capability area of **Personal and Social Capacity**
- 🍅 80% reported that their Kitchen Garden Program enabled student development in alignment with the curriculum general capability area of **Critical and Creative Thinking**
- 🍅 70% reported that their Kitchen Garden Program enabled student development in alignment with the curriculum general capability area of **Numeracy**
- 🍅 60% reported that their Kitchen Garden Program enabled student development in alignment with the curriculum general capability area of **Literacy**



“Being part of the Kitchen Garden community has truly been a game changer for us. It has transformed the way we teach the curriculum making learning more real, hands-on, and meaningful for our students”

SALLY BLATCHFORD, HEAD OF JUNIOR SCHOOL, UNITY COLLEGE, SA

# Stories of impact



# Ashley Park Primary School, VIC

*"A lot of our students have gone home and asked their families if they can start their own veggie gardens...and a lot of students have tried eating foods that they didn't know about before."*

Thanks to the grant, the school has been able to purchase a range of valuable resources that are already helping the Kitchen Garden Program grow. New items such as the garden shed, greenhouses, blender, kid-safe knives, garden carts and various gardening supplies were put to immediate use.

The school have involved their broader community, sharing their fresh produce at a school market day, and are excited to continue to improve on this process in the future.

Their program is integrated into the curriculum wherever possible, including maths, writing, inquiry and wellbeing, and the whole school is encouraging their progress, with the gardening program receiving positive feedback from teachers and families, who enjoy being involved and seeing the students' progress.



# East Devonport Primary School, TAS

At East Devonport, many of the students who have challenges in the classroom excel in the garden. Students are quite adventurous in trying new things in the kitchen and garden. They especially love eating edible flowers and the native edibles.

East Devonport also report that their Kitchen Garden Program has influenced building healthier food environments within their school. They now have a 5 day a week free hot lunch program, with the menu featuring fresh produce from the garden.

The educators share their Kitchen Garden news with the wider community through their Seed Library Facebook page, in school newsletters and the school Facebook page.

Their grant was invested in essential infrastructure like potting mix, wheelbarrows, watering cans, knives, gloves, and a fire pit for cooking.



# Loxton District Childrens Centre, SA

"Some children tried mint, some enjoyed it, others spat it out but they were beaming with pride as a result."

Through their grant, Loxton District have connected with families, children and community to establish their Kitchen Garden program.

Educators have noticed children observing the seasonal changes in their garden, and have found themselves engaging in rich conversation about how to care for the garden and our environment with the children.

Edible herbs and flowers grown in their garden are enjoyed in their mud kitchen, in homemade playdough, cooking and other sensory experiences.

Local community services have contributed several hours of volunteer work to help establish the Kitchen Garden Program.

Highlights of their membership have included the opportunity to provide staff with access to learning opportunities, to further develop their knowledge and skills in the garden, and ways in which they can engage children in hands on learning.



Atherton State School, QLD

- Highlight -

Revitalising an area of the school that was overgrown with weeds and turning it into an inviting space for all community members.

# Nangiloc Colignan and District Primary School, VIC

The garden has become a central part of daily learning at Nangiloc, with the produce grown regularly used in cooking sessions. Students have been learning how to prepare simple, fresh meals and snacks, and developing positive attitude towards healthy eating.

Grant funds were used to improve the garden's functionality, including new potting tables for safe, accessible work and outdoor seating to support lessons, small-group activities and community involvement.

Students are now more involved in planting, caring for the garden beds, and understanding the role of native species in a healthy ecosystem. The program resources have also helped teachers integrate food education more confidently into their lessons, connecting gardening with science, sustainability, and wellbeing.

The school also send produce and prepared food home to families, which has strengthened the connection between school learning and healthy food choices at home.

*"Families regularly share positive feedback, noting that students are more willing to try new foods and talk about where ingredients come from."*



# Guyra Central School, NSW

There have been so many highlights experienced at Guyra Central School, with many connecting to students wellbeing and engagement. They reflected on the enthusiasm of students for cooking and gardening activities, and the pride and joy students are experiencing when they share the food they have prepared with peers.

The school has observed student ownership and respect for the school garden, as well as students who struggle in the classroom, accessing opportunities to excel in the KGP.

The sponsored membership and grant opportunity has created more than access to resources and membership at Guyra Central, it has encouraged the school to commit additional budget to support the program, including funding a Kitchen Garden SSO one day a week.

Staff are also building their own gardening and cooking knowledge, strengthening whole-school capacity. Grant funds were used to purchase essential tools and equipment such as knives, an electric grill, an induction hotplate, secateurs, hoses, compost bins, shovels, tubs and a wheelbarrow.

Guyra Central School also made great use of the membership benefits, including access to the Shared Table to inspire ideas and activities based on other KGP members posts, as well as utilising the free Diggers Club membership, which enables them to access seeds at a discounted price.



# Our Lady of Lourdes, TAS

"The hands-on, sensory nature of gardening activities supports engagement, regulation, and success for all of our diverse learners."

The infrastructure grant has enabled the school to establish three self-watering garden beds in the Prep courtyard, transforming a previously unusable concrete space into a hands-on learning environment for Kindergarten to Grade 1 students. This has allowed young learners to actively participate in the Kitchen Garden Program and engage in meaningful, practical gardening experiences.

Community involvement has been a major strength, with a parent from the local community garden offering expert advice and ongoing support for staff and students.

Students who were initially hesitant are becoming more curious and confident, while educators are noticing new capabilities and a strong sense of responsibility emerging.

The hands-on, sensory nature of the garden has been particularly beneficial for diverse learners, supporting engagement, regulation and success. Students are also developing stronger food literacy, showing increased recognition of fruits and vegetables and growing confidence with gardening tools and tasks. Grant funds were used to purchase self-watering beds, soil, child-sized tools, gloves, and seedlings to begin the first planting cycle.



# Kelly's Plains Public School, NSW

*"We provide families with free produce to support healthy cooking and eating at home, strengthening the connection between school learning and family wellbeing."*

The infrastructure grant has significantly supported the progress of the Kitchen Garden Program at Kelly's Plains, by creating vibrant, engaging spaces where students can connect with nature through hands-on gardening and sustainability activities.

With improved garden beds and upgraded kitchen facilities, students are developing practical skills, confidence in cooking, and a genuine appreciation for the natural world.

Overall, the grant has expanded the program's reach and strengthened its impact on student wellbeing, personal growth and enjoyment of outdoor learning.

Families are also warmly welcomed into the garden space, allowing them to engage firsthand with the program and strengthen the connection between home and school learning.

Educators have also benefited from the sponsored membership opportunity, relishing the chance to engage in the professional development webinars, and gain confidence in effectively supporting and inspiring the students through the program.



“Many children who initially thought they didn’t like certain vegetables, such as broccoli or other greens, have become more open to trying and enjoying them after growing and preparing these foods themselves.”

JENNA WALSH, PRINCIPLE, KELLY'S PLAINS PUBLIC SCHOOL, NSW

# Unity College, SA

*"We are incredibly grateful for the opportunities, inspiration, and support the program provides."*

The infrastructure grant has enabled Unity College to significantly advance their KGP with improved facilities, including a chicken coop, additional garden beds and watering systems. New kitchen infrastructure, like electric fry pans, has made this space safer for students to access and engage in.

Every second Thursday, student leaders shine at the Harvest Hut, where the wider community can buy fresh, school grown produce, and student made products, like flower bombs and seeds collected from the garden.

A highlight of Unity College's KGP experience so far has been the visit with Mel from the Monarto mushroom farm. With the mushrooms donated, the school made fresh mushroom risotto, and some kids were very quick to say this was the best meal they have ever tasted!

For Unity College, receiving the sponsored membership and grant has been a spring board for conversations within the finance team. This has seen significant budget allocated to a redevelopment of the kitchen space in 2026.



“Thank-you - we are grateful for your contribution in bringing our  
garden to life”

LOXTON DISTRICT CHILDREN'S CENTRE, SA



Thank you, Costa Group

