



Early childhood services Childcare and kindergartens

Rural City of Wangaratta

8

of 17 early childhood services completed the Veggie Garden Mapping Survey

6

reported to have an active veggie garden at their service



Three are somewhat active (on and off / seasonal)



Two are actively in use



One is inactive but with a plan to activate

Program linkages

8

reported that they are registered with the Smiles4Miles program



Two reported that they are registered with the Achievement Program



One reported to be registered with the School Breakfast Program



One is interested in Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program



One is involved in Plastic Free July and has created a recipe booklet for families and involve the children in cooking activities with products gifted to families

Successful gardens reportedly have:

- Parent helpers to weed, plant and water etc;
- Team work;
- An all-team approach;
- Funds;
- Support from community; and,
- Children that enjoy participating with the garden, connecting with it and seeing it as a place to explore, as well as eating the fruit and vegetables!

Challenges include:

- Maintenance including weeding; soil fertilisation and repairs;
- Watering over holiday periods;
- Cost;
- Time; and,
- Space.



How garden produce is used?



Shared with their service's kitchen, families and staff to take home at two services



Eaten at the kindergarten by children (eg. shared fruit and vegetable platter, herbs used for sensory activities) at three services



The majority of early childhood services are interested in receiving:

- Gardening guidance, resources and workshops;
- Support from Bunnings Wangaratta; and,
- Opportunities to share excess produce.

Thank you to all the services that completed this survey and contributed valuable information to the mapping of veggie gardens and their functionality in aim to support children's health and wellbeing.