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## MEDIA RELEASE

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### GRANT SUCCESS – COMMUNITY GARDEN

The Department of Local Government and Communities assist with the development of community gardens across Western Australia through a competitive grants scheme, Shire of Goomalling has secured \$20,000 to create a community & bush tucker garden.

The community garden is an essential element of a multifaceted space designed to empower the community and value all of the unique characters that define Goomalling. The project is committed to fostering valuable relationships across all demographics and educating the community about sustainable healthy lifestyles.

Anticipated Benefits associated with the project include:

#### Health

- Fresh healthy low cost food;
- Physical activity for all age groups;
- Builds self-confidence, wellness; social skills. and
- Provide opportunities for family nutritional education.

#### Economic

- Low cost foods and produce;
- Produce is revenue source for the whole facility;
- Attraction of tourists; and
- Inspires entrepreneurship.

#### Educational

- Basic garden skills from sowings seeds to harvesting, and better understanding of their food system;
- Environmental awareness;
- Communication skills;
- Working collaboratively; and
- Creating products from garden produce such as preserves, condiments, cosmetics and compost; and
- Medicinal benefits from herbs and bush plants.

#### Social

- Equal opportunities for all members of the community;
- Brings people together;
- Provides an opportunity for events;
- Encourages sharing of produce from their own gardens;
- Provides an opportunity for mentoring; and
- Provides a welcoming space and encourages the sharing of knowledge.

#### Environmental

- Improve the local environment by preserving and growing green space and encouraging people to act as local stewards;
- Decrease its environmental impact by reducing the food miles and recycling the waste;
- The group will contain, or omit from plans, plants that may endanger the local ecosystem;
- Promotes sustainable lifestyles through workshops and garden management;

- Volunteer leadership opportunities; and
- Improve conflict resolution skills within the community.

When people come together through community gardening, they improve community connections, learn new skills, and share physical, social and nutritional benefits. Community gardens provide the opportunity to develop greater understanding between neighbours, parents and young people from a diverse range of cultural backgrounds.

Projects funded through the grants will allow community members to:

- participate in community life more actively
- connect with the environment and other people
- use their skills
- give back to the community.<sup>1</sup>

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1 Extract [Department of Local Government and Communities, 2015-16 Community Gardens Grants Program, Guidelines.](#)