

FOOD FOR THOUGHT – A GARDEN PROGRAM FOR RISDON PRISON



The garden is located on the grounds of **Christian Family Centre**
Adjacent to Risdon Prison
At it's peak between 2012 and 2019 the garden produced in excess of 4 tonnes of
produce per year – donated directly to communities in need
The Garden became over-ran and unmanaged during a number of prison lockdowns
& Covid-19

With the support of a number of key partners we believe this project has a strong future and can provide many
benefits to the Tasmanian community



PRISON GARDEN PROGRAM – BACKGROUND 2012 - 2021



Commencing in 2012, garden beds were prepared and plans were established to grow a wide variety of crops suitable for redistribution and consumption within some of Tasmania's most vulnerable communities - especially those identified as experiencing food insecurity.

The gardens within the Risdon Prison Precinct and local area in Southern Tasmania included:

- A garden within the Ron Barwick Minimum Security Prison
- A garden within the Risdon Prison Complex (maximum and minimum security)
- The 'Cow Paddock',
- 'Norm's Paddock' the Christian Family Centre adjacent to the prison precinct at Risdon Vale and,
- The community garden at nearby, Risdon Vale Neighborhood Centre

Once the produce was harvested, it was collected and redistributed by SecondBite, a charity whose mission is to redistribute surplus fresh food to vulnerable Australians. The gardeners - inmates from the prison - were in turn, acknowledged by SecondBite and awarded certificates of appreciation for their efforts.

This garden was featured on the ABC and can be accessed - [here](#) More information on Secondbite: <https://secondbite.org/who-we-are/>

Under Section 42 of the Corrections Act 1997, prisoners are given day release to participate in community programs thus, making available a reliable daily workforce to volunteer at gardens which were external to the prison - but within the prison precinct and, in the community.

Unfortunately, the program was abandoned in 2017 due to resourcing issues at the prison however all up, over 14 tonnes of produce was redistributed in the community. Plans to revitalize the garden were dealt a further blow with the advent of the COVID - 19 pandemic

Sustainability of the project is critical- we will utilise volunteer support from our partners to support the program as required & during unforeseen events. Volunteers from Christian Family Centre, various garden clubs & support from Volunteering Tasmania will help maintain the garden as required

SUPPORTED BY A NUMBER OF KEY PARTNERS



EWT will provide Program Management by playing a key role in overseeing stakeholder engagement and coordinating project logistics administration and auspice requirements.



Currently integrated within Risdon Prison with existing programs will assist in design and implementation of program support in line with current parameters



School Food Matters (formally Tas School Canteen Assn) will be the beneficiaries of produce which will be provided directly to their new Meals in Schools program due to commence in 2022 in 15 schools around Tasmania.



Aligned with the Christian Family Centre; Onesimus Foundation will support families of incarcerated individuals and their re-integration into communities & society



Loaves & Fishes (formally SecondBite Tas) have committed to providing logistic & distribution support



Variety Tasmania will support individuals and families impacted by incarceration, domestic violence and abuse



Tas Tafe will provide support through education & Training programs to support inmates and their involvement in the program



CVGT will support engaging with inmates (especially those who are preparing for release) to enhance employment prospects

FOOD FOR THOUGHT- A GARDEN PROGRAM FOR RISDON PRISON THE FUTURE



Auspice by Eat Well Tasmania Inc and with the support of various partners we believe we have a shovel ready program that can be underway as soon as early 2022

What we have

- ✓ We have the site
- ✓ We have the support of all key partners
- ✓ We have identified the benefits to the School Lunch Program
- ✓ The program will have a tangible impact on inmates and their rehabilitation and reintegration

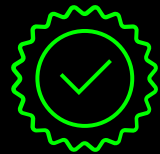
What's required

- We require investment from the Tasmanian Government to re-invigorate the garden
- Support from the Department of Justice to allow prison inmates to participate in this program



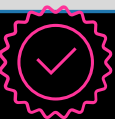
What we will deliver

Provide fresh produce directly to the 30 schools registered for Tasmanian School Food Matters- School lunch program which will improve Tasmanian students and their

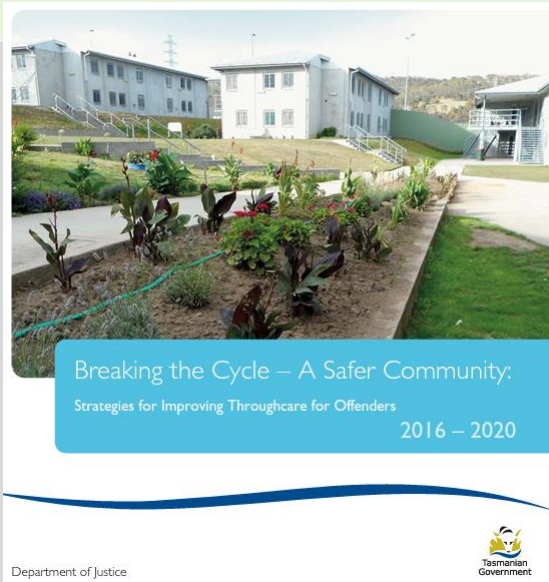


- ✓ Academic performance
- ✓ Concentration levels
- ✓ Nutrition benefits
- ✓ Attendance rates

✓ Provide training & grow career pathway opportunities for prisoners. Including the training of horticulture and agriculture skills required for pruning, harvesting & a variety of skills frequently under resourced in these Tasmanian industries



GOVERNMENT STRATEGY & POLICY SNAPSHOT



The *Breaking the Cycle* vision for the Tasmanian corrections system is:

A reduction in reoffending and an increase in the ongoing safety of the Tasmanian community by providing a safe, secure, humane and effective correctional system with opportunities for rehabilitation, personal development, reintegration and community engagement.

Our vision for throughcare in the corrections system is:

To provide a quality and collaborative throughcare model in partnership with other agencies and the community that supports people across the corrections system, with coordinated assistance and interventions to maximise the potential of each individual.

Goal 3 – To contribute to a reduction in reoffending by case managing individuals throughout their sentence and by providing interventions and opportunities to enable each person to achieve positive and sustainable changes

- Increase opportunities to engage in education and training

- Enhance the range of productive employment opportunities provided to increase skills and employability on release

- Develop and introduce a purposeful activity driven working day for prisoners

- Encourage individuals serving a period of imprisonment to give back to the community through increasing the provision of programs developed in partnership with non-government organisations, e.g. the Community Gardens, Sustainable Prisons Project in the Risdon Prison Complex, Hand Made With Pride in Mary Hutchinson Women's Prison, and Pups on Parole in the Ron Barwick Minimum Security Prison

This project will have a direct benefit to the goals of the Breaking the Cycle vision



OUR PROJECT HAS DIRECT LINKS TO A NUMBER OF KEY TASMANIAN STATE GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES

- **Premier's Economic and Social Advisory Council (PERSAC) recommendations 31 and 32 to address food insecurity and create place-based solutions**
 - *Expand on recent trials of school lunch provision to include greater school and community provision*
 - *Adopt a place-based approach to community food security models and not a 'one size fits all' approach.*
 - *Include strong links to local agricultural and hospitality businesses including training opportunities for program participants.*
 - *Scalable in design so that any potential increase in demand for emergency food relief can be managed in a rapid and effective manner.*
- **Food relief to Food Security Strategy – Tasmanian Food Security Strategy 2021-2024**

- The Tasmanian Liberal Government's **School Lunch Pilot** has been extended with 15 schools now selected to participate next year, and a further 15 to join in 2023.

We know that nutrition can impact on a young person's ability to concentrate and learn, and our \$1.4 million Food For Thought school lunch pilot will further remove barriers to learning, so that more students can fully participate and engage at school.

Priority has been given to schools in areas of most need, with the program to build on the school lunches pilot that was led by the Tasmanian School Canteen Association's (TSCA) in late 2020, and in response to the PESRAC recommendations to build and enhance the food security of our community.

✓ **Through the production of fresh, healthy produce – the Food for Thought project has the capacity to have a direct positive impact on this program and the students who will benefit from the School Lunch program**



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PROPAGATE

PLANT



GROW



HARVEST



PREPARE

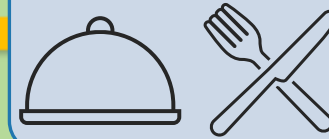


DISTRIBUTE

PROVIDE



SCHOOLS



CAFE

EDUCATE



RE-INTERGRATE





PROJECT FUNDING

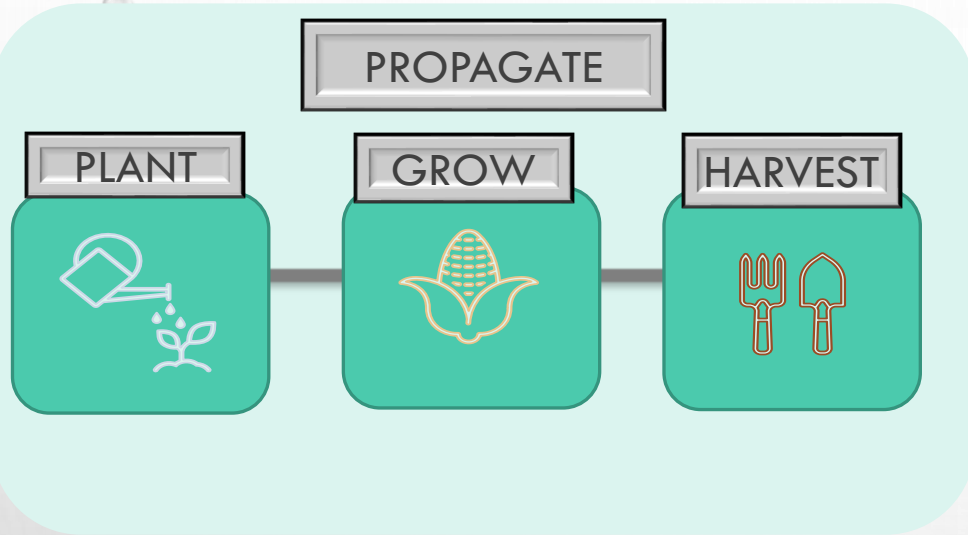
The following program budget has been established:

Funding required	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	Total Funding
Project Co-ordinator	\$80 000	\$80 000	\$80 000	\$240 000
Project Admin & Horticulturist Support	\$15 000	\$15 000	\$15 000	\$15 000
Equipment & Maintenance	\$25 000	\$15 000	\$15 000	\$55 000
Earthmoving & Planting Supplies	\$25 000	\$10 000	\$10 000	\$10 000
Transportation/Logistics	\$10 000	\$10 000	\$10 000	\$30 000
Accounting/Auditing/Communications	\$15 000	\$15 000	\$15 000	\$45 000
TOTAL	\$170 000	\$145 000	\$145 00	\$460 000

A Number of organisations will also offer In-Kind support to the project-

In Kind Support	Provided	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	Total In Kind
Christian Family Centre	Land & Facilities	\$30 000	\$30 000	\$30 000	\$90 000
Loaves & Fishes	Transport/Logistics	\$25 000	\$25 000	\$25 000	\$75 000
Eat Well Tas	Admin/Comms	\$20 000	\$20 000	\$20 000	\$60 000
		\$75 000	\$75 000	\$75 000	\$225 000

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During the propagate phase participants will learn skills and education in horticulture, gardening, maintenance and teamwork- including key components on horticulture harvesting and crop maintenance

Education and facilitation to be provided by:



Tas Tafe
Other RTO's



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PREPARE



During the prepare phase participants will learn skills and education in food preparation, cooking, food safety and storage

Education and facilitation to be provided by:



Supported by-
Eat Well Tasmania –
recipes
Logistics- Loaves & Fishes
Government House
Garden staff &
horticulturalists

A dedicated horticulturalist –to
oversee/advise:

- a planned seasonal planting strategy,
- soil testing,
- crop rotation,
- choice of fertilizer,
- irrigation,
- pest and disease control

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Garden produce will be used to supply social enterprises such as 'School Food Matters' and 'The Christian Family Centre Café'. It could potentially also be utilised in the O'Hara Units where inmates are seeking to acquire cooking skills prior to release.

Education and facilitation to be provided by:



Supported by-
School Food Matters – School Lunch Program
CFC Cafe

OTHER SUCCESSFUL MODELS



THE
CLINK
RESTAURANT
HMP HIGH DOWN

INTRODUCTION

The Clink works in partnership with Her Majesty's Prison & Probation Service to deliver 14 training projects: 4 restaurants, 6 kitchens, 3 gardens and 1 events catering business.

All projects utilise our Five Step Integrated Programme to ensure that students receive the support they need, not only while they are in prison but also post-release: Recruit, Train, Support, find Employment and Mentor.

GARDENS

The Clink Gardens began at HMP High Down and continue at HMP High Down and HMP Send. Prisoners work to gain experience and achieve City & Guilds NVQ Level 2 in Horticulture. The salad, fruit, vegetables, herbs and eggs produced from the gardens are delivered daily to our restaurants.

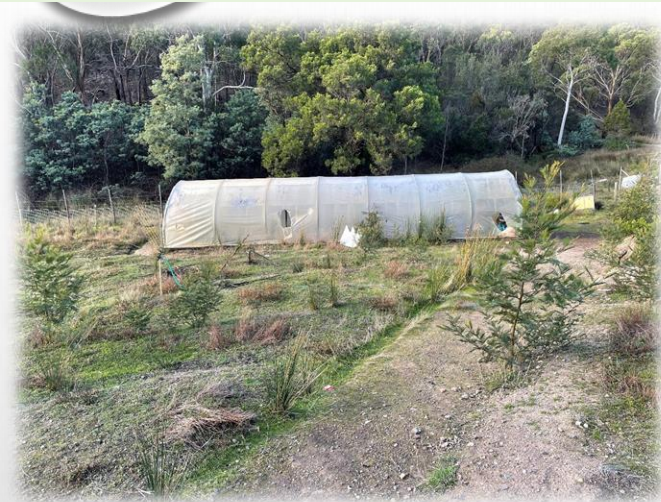


KITCHENS

In February 2021, The Clink Charity announced plans to roll out the Clink Kitchens integrated training programme to 70 prisons in England and Wales over the next three years.

Our trainers deliver high quality City & Guilds accredited training in Food Preparation and Cookery within the existing prison kitchens. Supported by New Futures Network and Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service, The Clink will deliver training for up to 2,000 men and women in prisons to achieve qualifications in hospitality and gain employment upon release, proven to dramatically reduce reoffending.

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NEXT STEPS

Engagement with Department of Justice (Risdon Prison) - **Commenced**

Establish working group - **Completed**

Undertake appropriate risk analysis – *Integrated into timeline*

Establish Timeline - **Commenced**

Budget parameters/funding opportunities - **Commenced**

Confirmation of Program partners - **Commenced**

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