

# Bridge to Sustainability and Well-being: Growing Community Resilience in the ErinEarth Garden

## ErinEarth

Wagga Wagga Council

Funding requested: \$271,100

**Summary:** Our project is expanding and deepening our capacity as a living educational community resource to address social and environmental needs. We will achieve this through partnerships with community groups (such as The Wagga Women's Health Centre and Marwang Garway) and draw from our local businesses, creative community, and Council. Our project supports targeted groups including First Nations, elderly, women and families recovering from domestic violence, girls, youth and those at risk of social exclusion who will achieve social connection, wellbeing and hopeful actions for change. Our project will deliver 6 programs (yarning story circle, story circle for the elderly, women's groups and Girls in the Garden, nature-play groups, youth action group and a nature writing competition) and create a learning and community space to foster wellbeing benefits to the wider community.

**Community value:** Program reach extends from using the garden as safe space for marginalised groups, victims and families experiencing domestic violence; connecting to nature and providing a reflective space for knowledge sharing.

The Programs have a strong link with local First Nations people and develop the ErinEarth garden as a place for truth telling and conversations between diverse groups within the community.

Our infrastructure development will focus on 'buy local' and aims to adopt sustainable building practices. The creation of the Youth program with WWCC and businesses will support the development of business skills, project management and environmental advocacy training.

Lessons learned, stories and models from program implementation and evaluation will be made available and shared with other communities in NSW. The infrastructure investment will provide a unique learning and meeting space for community and will highlight sustainable building techniques and processes.



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