



Case Study – EON Thriving Communities program

Summary Report

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This summary is prepared by Hyde Park Media and based on the case study '*EON Thriving Communities program case study*' by Nous Group.

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How Royalties for Regions supports remote Aboriginal communities

The Royalties for Regions program has provided more than \$1.6 million to fund the expansion of the EON Thriving Communities program in the Kimberley region of Western Australia.

EON is a not-for-profit organisation that aims to improve the health and wellbeing of remote Aboriginal communities.

Up until receiving Royalties for Regions (RfR) funding, EON had been working in only six communities in the Kimberley. The funding enabled EON to double the number of remote communities it helps to 12.

How does it work?

EON is a Perth-based not-for-profit organisation founded in 2005. Its [Thriving Communities](#) program helps communities set up and develop edible gardens growing fruit and vegetables. It then trains individuals and families to maintain the gardens and better understand healthy eating. EON does this over a five-year period, after which it exits the community.

The objectives of the project are:

- To improve the health and wellbeing of community members
- To reduce the prevalence of chronic disease in Aboriginal communities
- To build the capacity of local communities to deliver generational changes to life expectancy, health and socio-economic opportunities.

The RfR funding helped EON extend its work to six extra communities in the Kimberley over the four-year period ending in December 2015, focusing on the following areas:

- Edible gardens
- Healthy eating
- Education and training; and
- Healthy homes.

What is the feedback?

As a not-for-profit organisation, EON had been threatened by a lack of funding and the small scale of its operations.

It says Royalties for Regions provided 'seed' funding that has enabled it to grow its operations and become a sustainable organisation.



As well as helping EON double the number of communities it operates in, the RfR funding enabled it to appoint a full-time chief executive and financial controller, as well as expand its board and refine its governance structure.

“We had six communities on board and had a part time CEO and financial controller. Royalties for Regions has enabled us to get a full-time CEO and a financial controller that can focus on the organisation properly.” EON Director

EON says the RfR funding means it now has the capacity to undertake longer term strategic planning to assist more communities.

“Royalties for Regions has enabled EON to grow—it gave funding security for the entire four-year program. This frees up a lot of capacity as we don’t need to constantly apply for grants.” EON Director

EON says the Royalties for Regions funding also contributed to its capacity to attract BHP funding for three communities in the Pilbara region.

It now operates in a total of 16 remote Aboriginal communities, 13 in the Kimberley and three in the Pilbara.

