

Food Connections Clarence

SHARING STORIES - LOCAL ACTION ON FOOD SECURITY

Determinant of food security:

Food supply and food access

Sub-determinant:

Social support, financial resources

Location & year:

Clarence, 2012 - 2014

Story tellers:

Julie Andersson, Community Development Officer, Clarence City Council

Summary/Description

Clarence City Council knew that there were lots of programs addressing food security in their local area, but these hubs of activity were isolated from each other. They decided to build a network and link partners together to strengthen activities in the area.

The Food Connections Clarence project focusses on supporting, harnessing and developing aspects of what is already going on in the local community.

One of the new partnerships formed through Food Connections Clarence is the 'Chat and Chew' program, where Geilston Bay High School staff, teachers and students use food supplied by Second Bite to make meals for older adults. These are distributed at local community 'hubs' and neighbourhood centres across the city.

Benefits and achievements

Food Connections Clarence has formed a partnership group to guide the project, and some fantastic new initiatives have begun as a result of these relationships.

Participants of 'Chat and Chew' at Geilston Bay have highlighted how positive the project has been. Older people have enjoyed the chance to socialise with each other and with the young chefs, and several students at Geilston Bay High School showed a flair for cooking and now hope to continue on to careers in hospitality and commercial cookery.

"We're really focussing on supporting and harnessing aspects of what is already going on in our community"
Julie Andersson



Challenges

With so many partners involved in the Food Connections Clarence project, communication between stakeholders has been complex. It has been a challenge to make sure all the groups involved are kept up-to-date and have the opportunity to provide advice and expertise to the project.

The project manager has worked around this by linking the partners together in an email network. This way even if stakeholders can't attend face-to-face meetings, they are able to keep up with events and information and share ideas with the group.



Promotion

The Food Connections Clarence project advertised to community members through information and fact sheets about the Chat and Chew program, and the Social Eating program.

Community members can join the Chat and Chew program directly, or carers, support workers and volunteers can link people in to the program.



Funding

Food Connections Clarence (FCC) is supported by funding from the Food For All Tasmanians Grant 2012 and the Clarence City Council. The Council manages the Clarence Partnership Group who guide the project.

Partners include the Clarence Positive Ageing Advisory Committee, Clarence Community Volunteer Service, the four Clarence Neighbourhood Centres, Clarence Senior Citizens Centre, Christian Family Centre Risdon Vale, Food Bank Tasmania, Geilston Bay High School, Health Promotion DHHS, Second Bite Tasmania, and the South Arm Peninsula Residents Association.

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Information was compiled by **Population Health Services (DHHS)** in partnership with this initiative and the Department of Premier and Cabinet.