

Tenterfield Social Development Committee



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20th September 2018

To whom it may concern,

I am writing on behalf of TSDC (Tenterfield Social Development Committee) to seek your support for establishing a Food Ladder project in Tenterfield NSW.

The TSDC is a not for profit community organisation managed by a local volunteers committee that seeks to sponsor, undertake, develop and promote activities and projects to facilitate family, community and social well-being, within a community development framework in the Tenterfield Local Government area. Our service provides practical support and assistance through the Aboriginal Family & Links, Tenterfield & Drake Supported Playgroup, Community information Hub and Tenterfield Family & Youth Supported programs using partnerships, strength-based and family-centered approaches to children, youth and families through the development and deliveries of programmes and activities. We are currently running Living Skills, Boxing and Fishing program with collaboration with the Salvation Army, Oz Fish and Armujan Aboriginal Health. Our Service is a sponsor for WDO (working development order) where clients can volunteer their time to pay off their fines.

Tenterfield is rural remote community of the New England area at the end of the NSW border only 17km from the QLD border. Tenterfield has experienced the loss of the Meat Works closing two years ago with 80 people out of work and Tenterfield is currently experiencing the pressure of the drought, these have made a big impact on the area and the local community. Mingoola is a small community 58km inland from Tenterfield that have housed African Refugees, their story was on ABC Australian Stories.

Food Ladder would provide so many positive outcomes for the Tenterfield community and the LGA region, it would be well received and would be a great boast to the economy. There is a tremendous need for jobs and activities in Tenterfield, especially for high-risk youth and low income families. 60% of our clients are Aboriginal.

The Food Ladder would be great to promote tourism, bush tucker food and Aboriginal culture, and would support our playgroups, families, youth, volunteers (WDO) and service run programs including boxing, fishing and living skills.

Positive outcomes from the implementation of Food Ladder include: developing social and group skills, support for children, youth and families to engage with education and services, encourage personal care, improving their fitness, early intervention and prevention, improving mental health, coping strategies, healthy lifestyles choices, job opportunities, education and new skills, self-pride, purpose to get motivated, purchase of fresh food supplying local restaurants and café, improving health and nutrition, overall well-being.

Our service offers our full support for the implementation of Food Ladder in Tenterfield. Please do not hesitate to call for further information: Karen Mooney, 0435928400.

Kind Regards, Karen Mooney

Family & Youth Support Worker/Program Manager "It Takes a Community to Raise a Child"