

# Connections within a school

## School stories of impact - 2021



*Pick of the Crop* is a whole school program, aimed at increasing the opportunities for primary school students in Queensland to learn about, see, grow and eat more vegetables and fruit. The program started in 2021, in 35 Queensland primary schools, and school stories were collected during evaluation through interviews and focus groups.

Below are quotes from a participating school, showing how *Pick of the Crop* can connect with activities across the school, leading to an integrated experience for students.

***'Pick of the Crop has been a very positive project for our school'***

### Garden connections and other programs

*'I am the principal of a small school. At the start it felt like it took a while to get a bit of traction with the program and to figure out how best to fit it in with the crowded curriculum. But then, a local farmer I know quite well, who was a former student, donated a huge truck load of soil to our school... With donations we had everything we needed to start the garden..'*

*'We do **weekly cooking** with students called 'Foodie Friday' and incorporate produce from the garden into recipes. We then compile the recipes into a cookbook that we give to families for Christmas.'*

*'There are all these **programs that interconnect** with *Pick of the Crop* and we are able to identify those opportunities for connecting it all together. We heard about these from the regional coordinator...'*

### Curriculum connections

*'We have incorporated a lot of *Pick of the Crop* content into the **curriculum**. Earlier this year we did CSIRO 'taste and learn' lessons that linked together quite well with the health curriculum. We have also linked the growing of vegetables in with our science unit.'*

*'We have plans to put a watering system in the garden and to link this into the curriculum as part of a technology, to look at how to water the garden efficiently without using just a hose or watering can.'*

*'Since doing *Pick of the Crop*, I have realised that there are even more links with the curriculum, so as you go along it opens your eyes to the opportunities.'*

### Impacts

*'For me the most important change is the kids' willingness to try different vegetables and fruit and to see the kids learning the skills for how to cook. You know that is a life skill and if they have that skill now hopefully that will translate into real life when they grow up. I am hoping that by building those skills and healthy habits in kids that it will transfer over to families and lifelong healthy habits.'*

*'The **staff** are really keen to do *Pick of the Crop* activities. It has been great to see the staff take ownership over it.'*

### Summary

***'Pick of the Crop has been an enjoyable experience for everyone at our school including staff, students and parents.*** Everyone looks forward to it. I think it's the satisfaction that they are part of it, contributing to, and get a lot of say in what they do.'

Pick of the Crop continues to expand to more regions in Queensland. For more information visit [www.hw.qld.gov.au/pick-of-the-crop](http://www.hw.qld.gov.au/pick-of-the-crop) (June 2022)