



MEDIA RELEASE

Oct 13, 2008

Stephanie Alexander and Maggie Beer launch the Kitchen Garden Program in South Australia

The movement for pleasurable food education arrives in South Australia this month, as Stephanie Alexander and Maggie Beer join forces to host an information evening on grants available for the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden National Program. They will be speaking to principals, teachers, parents and community members about the benefits of introducing the Kitchen Garden Program into SA primary schools.

The Australian Government has committed \$12.8 million to fund infrastructure for the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden National Program in up to 190 primary schools across Australia. The grants provide funding for the development of a productive vegetable garden and the construction of a home-style kitchen on the school grounds.

Within four years, around 20,000 Australian primary school children in Years 3 to 6 will experience the joys of growing, harvesting, preparing and sharing delicious fresh food each week, laying the foundations for a life time of positive food choices.

Stephanie Alexander said today:

I believe that by encouraging children to become enjoyably involved in all aspects of their food supply, these children are much more likely to develop sensible eating habits for the rest of their lives. Teachers and parents in our existing kitchen garden schools report how positive the children are about their sessions in the garden and in the kitchen, how they absolutely love their time at a shared table eating what they have made, and how their openness to new flavours and textures develops very rapidly.

This program needs to be well supported. It has the potential to change the habits of an entire generation.

Maggie Beer said:

Nothing could be more exciting than to think that the Federal Government are extending the Stephanie's Kitchen Garden Program to each state of Australia. To think we have a possibility that each young child could have the opportunity to learn

about the growing of vegetables and then to cook them and to share the table is to set them on a path for life of a genuine love of food.

Stephanie Alexander and Maggie Beer will be speaking at the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden National Program Information Session on Monday 20 October from 5.30 pm–7.30 pm at the Bradley Forum, Hawke Centre, University of South Australia, West Campus.

Grants of up to \$60,000 are open to all South Australia government schools with primary enrolments. The first round of grants is open from 13 October and will close on 7 November. Background, selection criteria and application forms are available at: www.kitchengardenfoundation.org.au/grants-national.shtml

For more information on the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden National Program or to arrange interviews with Stephanie Alexander, please contact:

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