

**151**     *THE PLAYFORD FOOD ALLIANCE - A PARTNERSHIP FOR FOOD SECURITY*

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**PURPOSE:** This presentation describes the Playford Food Alliance, a project that tackles the issue of food security in a northern area of Adelaide with high levels of disadvantage, known as the "Peachey Belt". . The project used a community development approach that was designed to address the issue of inequitable access to nutritious food and knowledge about nutrition through intersectoral collaboration. The evaluation findings on the effectiveness of collaboration and partnership in addressing inequities in food security are examined

**METHOD:** The external evaluation utilized a number of qualitative methods including interviews, observation and document analysis to assess the way in which intersectoral partnerships were used and how effective they were in addressing food security.

**RESULTS:** Intersectoral collaboration is one of the key means of addressing social and health inequities and the evaluation showed that the partnerships formed in the project fulfilled many of the pre-conditions for successful collaboration. These include: common goals, mutual benefits, trust and effective communications, shared resources and community input. The Playford Food Alliance project management group included representatives from community health, education, housing, welfare, local government, horticulture and retail businesses. There was also a community advisory group with local residents involved. Each member contributed in some way to one or more of the project's strategies and a number developed new services in collaboration with other partners.

**CONCLUSION:** The Playford Food Alliance's community development model and promotion of partnerships led to a number of successful initiatives that are addressing food security and therefore inequity in the Peachey Belt area. These include a peer education program for community people interested in the promotion of nutrition, a fortnightly Farmers market where local producers sell fresh food to the community and a food services directory. All these initiatives arose as a result of collaborations between the project's partners and their success has the potential to be a model for similar projects addressing food insecurity and inequity in similar areas.