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Maggie Beer Foundation Launches The HomePlate Project, to Improve Food and Well-being for Older Australians Living at Home.

The Maggie Beer Foundation is thrilled to announce a ground-breaking initiative aimed at transforming food experiences for older Australians living independently in the community.

Building on the Maggie Beer Foundation's enduring mission to improve the quality of food for older people living in residential aged care, the HomePlate Project acknowledges the very real risk of malnutrition among an increasing number of older people living in the community and those living with loneliness, inadequate nutrition and a lack of interest in enjoying food.

Funded by the Wicking Trust, the project will engage local communities, care providers, nutrition experts, and older people themselves to develop a roadmap for food-based solutions that are responsive, sustainable, and capable of being scaled across diverse settings.

The project is being guided by an expert think tank, and will reach out to a wide range of stakeholders, starting with older people themselves, to gain an understanding of their food-related experiences, choices and challenges at home. The findings and insights will be used to appraise current options, models and interventions. The project aims to assist the development of practical, culturally inclusive, and community-driven approaches to enjoying good food—ensuring that older Australians not only eat well, but experience the joy, sense of community and dignity that food can bring.

Jane Mussared, CEO of the Maggie Beer Foundation, said this project opens a new chapter in the Foundation's work, taking its advocacy and expertise beyond aged care facilities and into homes and neighbourhoods across the country.

"We are taking our passion and knowledge from the aged care kitchen to the broader community—into people's homes, neighbourhoods, and everyday lives," said Ms Mussared. "Food is not just fuel; it is also about memory, culture, belonging, and joy. Every older Australian deserves that."

"The HomePlate Project will start by gathering insights directly from older people. We will do this through direct conversations, surveys and focus groups. As the project progresses, we will examine programs, services and options both in Australia and overseas and then bring together a community of stakeholders to explore the shape of future initiatives.

"The outcome of the HomePlate project will be a series of recommendations about real-world solutions, policy insights, and scalable models to support *ageing in place* strategies nationally," said Ms Mussared.

"We encourage anyone interested in staying in touch with the project, and particularly older people, to register on our website," Ms Mussared said.

Susie Meagher, Ageing and Social Impact Specialist at Equity Trustees, said the grant supporting the HomePlate Project represents a significant step forward in supporting better ageing outcomes across Australia.

"Ensuring access to enjoyable, culturally appropriate, and nourishing food must be a national priority," Ms Meagher said. "Helping older Australians not only live longer, but also live more connected and independent lives, is vital. That's why the Wicking Trust is thrilled to support this visionary work with the Maggie Beer Foundation."

The Maggie Beer Foundation has appointed Clare Fargher to lead the initiative. Clare is a Melbourne-based Nutritionist with postgraduate qualifications in Health Technology and Commerce and joins the Foundation from Foodbank Victoria.

About The Maggie Beer Foundation

The Maggie Beer Foundation was established in 2014. We aim to bring about life-altering change to the well-being of older people through access to food full of flavour and nutrients. In collaboration with older people, carers, researchers, foodies, aged care teams and clinicians, we are determined to improve the food experience and, therefore, quality of life for current and future generations of older people and advocate for the central place of good food for older people wherever they live.

About the Wicking Trust

Established in 2004, the J.O. & J.R. Wicking Trust is one of Australia's most significant philanthropic trusts focused on ageing and Alzheimer's disease. Administered by Equity Trustees, it supports systemic change that improves the quality of life for older people.

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