

## 2024 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As we reflect on the past year at QAST, it is both a privilege and a pleasure to present this report. Our organisation is built on the commitment and enthusiasm of our members and staff and it is your engagement that drives our success.

This year, we welcomed 111 new members, bringing our total membership to 401. This growth underscores the value of our organisation and the important work we do together.

QAST continues to deliver high quality service and support through our:

- Menu Health Checks, Tuckshop Tune-ups and Phone Advisory Service.
- Comprehensive range of resources, templates and guides.
- Tuckshop Network Meetings
- Widely used website
- Communication channels, including Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn, as well as our regular newsletters.
- Delivery of courses including Food Safety Supervisor, Food Handlers Course, Pathway to Profit, Convenor Course, Volunteer Management Course and our new Healthy Menu Planning training course.

QAST highlights for 2024:

- In January, we joined the Health Minister, Shannon Fentiman MP, local member Grace Grace MP, and [Health and Wellbeing Queensland](#) CEO Robyn Littlewood at Kelvin Grove State College to announce another year of funding to deliver the [Healthier Tuckshop Support Program](#).
- Our 2024 Recipe of the Year competition was a standout success, attracting important, positive media coverage for school tuckshops.
- Our Connections through Cooking program was nominated by TAFE AMEP program for Volunteering Queensland 2024 'Volunteering Impact' Awards.
- We successfully piloted our new Healthy Menu Planning Training and have converted it to an online course, making it accessible for all Queensland schools.
- We continued to be a sought-after and recognised voice in the media, with strong coverage on healthy school lunches, mobile phone bans, renewal of funding, and pricing in school tuckshops.

On top of this, our training programs continue to serve as the heart of our organisation. Over the past year, we have completed:

- Food Safety Supervisor Course – 18 courses held with 113 participants.
- Convenor Course – 5 courses held with 35 participants.
- Pathway to Profit Course – 4 courses held with 20 participants.
- Safe Food Handlers Course – 216 completions
- Healthy Menu Planning – 30 completions to date

The QAST website has continued to be a valuable source of information for Queensland schools, with over 33,000 unique, active users across the year. Our tuckshop recipes have been highly sought after, with over 31,000 total views, with our resources attracting close to 18,000 total downloads.

QAST continues to grow and value our key partnerships, including:

- Health and Wellbeing Queensland. Together we delivered two funded projects and worked together on media activities.
- Queensland Department of Education – housing and communication.

- Working on the Smart Choices Working Group along with HWQld, Department of Education and Nutrition Australia Queensland.
- Being a part of the executive committee of FOCIS and the National School Food Network.
- Working with Nutrition Australia Queensland as RTO to deliver Food Safety Supervisor training.
- Working with the Institute of Social Sciences Research (UQ) for evaluation of QAST activity.

As we look to the future, our goals for the upcoming year include:

- Expanding our membership outreach to attract new members who share our vision.
- Enhancing our programs based on member feedback and community needs.
- Strengthening our partnerships with other organisations to amplify our impact.

It is also my pleasure to announce Keryn O'Neill as our new Executive Officer. Keryn has extensive experience in leadership and innovation across many organisations, and we look forward to this new chapter of QAST.

I would like to acknowledge our wonderful staff throughout 2024:

- Deanne Wooden, for her time as Chief Executive Officer (September 2023 – October 2024). We wish her well in her new endeavours.
- Chrissy Buzzard, Communications Manager
- Karen Tobin Administration Manager
- Keryn O'Neill, Senior Training Officer (January – November 2024); Executive Officer (November 2024 ongoing)
- Natalie Farrugia, Connections Through Cooking Project and Project Officer
- Kamila Oliveira, Connections Through Cooking Project
- A very special mention to Chris Ogden who came out of retirement to step in as Acting Chief Executive Officer (October – Dec 2024).

I would also like to express my deepest gratitude to our dedicated Executive and Management Committee members and volunteers. Your hard work and commitment have made this year a success. A special thank you to each of you, our members, for your unwavering support and participation. Together, we are making a meaningful difference.

In closing, I am excited about the future of QAST. With the continued support and engagement of our members, we can achieve our mission and create an even stronger tuckshop community. Thank you for being an essential part of our journey.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Madonna Jardine', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Madonna Jardine

QAST President