



Australia Awards

Australia Awards Short Course

Feeding the Future: Maternal and Children's Nutrition



The participants of Feeding the Future: Maternal and Children's Nutrition – a course empowering policymakers and practitioners with the tools to design, implement, and evaluate impactful nutrition interventions for pregnant and breastfeeding women, infants, and young children.

The Feeding the Future: Maternal and Children's Nutrition Short Course, led by Professor Faruk Ahmed and Professor Rozanne Kruger, was attended by 25 participants from government and independent organisations. It equipped policymakers with the knowledge and tools to design, monitor, and implement effective interventions to address malnutrition in pregnant and breastfeeding women, infants, and young children.

The course covered undernutrition and overweight related challenges, the promotion of improved dietary patterns, and explored best practice in nutrition policy, regulation, and culturally appropriate interventions. It featured insights from First Nations organisations and encouraged cross-sector collaboration across health, education, and the food industry to support better nutrition outcomes.

Many participants were involved in community-level programs, while others contributed at the policy and systems level. This diversity fostered a rich environment for peer learning, policy dialogue, and collaborative project development aimed at improving nutrition outcomes across Indonesia.

Course schedule

- **Pre-Course workshop**
3–5 June 2025
- **In-Australia program**
21 June–6 July 2025
- **Post-Course workshop**
23–25 September 2025
- **Online mentoring**
May, August and September





Participants during a site visit to Pacifickai's Good Start program, supporting Māori and Pacific Islander mothers and children with healthy food, activity, and

Site Visits

During the In-Australia program, participants had the opportunity to visit a variety of organisations and senior experts in the field. Featured site visits and experts met included:

- International Water Centre, Griffith University
- DoHAC, Health and Wellbeing, Queensland Government
- Food Bank Queensland
- Good Start Program (Pacifikai)

Participant Projects

Throughout the program, participants engaged in an Award Project, applying the skills and knowledge they had gained. They used their newly acquired insights to design initiatives, many of which focused on creating guidelines and tools aimed at improving nutrition for infants and young children. These projects were then shared with course facilitators and peers for feedback and assessment.

Pre-Course Workshop

The 3-day pre-course workshop took place in Jakarta, Indonesia between 3–5 June 2025. The pre-course was presented by the course leaders and was designed to introduce the program objectives and expectations to the participants as well as provide them with an overview of the main topics.

For further information about the program, please contact:

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Post-Course Workshop

The 3-day post-course workshop took place in Kota Lama Kupang, Indonesia, from 23 to 25 September 2025. The group visited local health facilities *Puskesmas Naioni* and *Puskesmas Oesapa* where they met the Head of *Puskesmas*, staff of the facilities, the Head of the local sub-district, private nutrition suppliers, and volunteers in the health sector. Throughout the workshop, participants engaged in various sessions and activities that helped consolidate their learning from the program. They also presented their Award Projects, creating a space for peer feedback and fostering opportunities for collaboration.

“Participating in the Australia Awards program has been a meaningful and inspiring experience. The program provided not only technical knowledge and practical skills but also opportunities to connect with professionals from across the region. I appreciated the hands-on learning approach and exposure to Australian practices in community engagement and inclusion. The course has strengthened my ability to design more inclusive, participatory programs that are relevant to my community health work back home.”

Anonymous Participant

“Participating in the Australian Awards program is a transformative experience. It provided me with valuable skills and knowledge, diverse cultural insights, and the opportunity to build the connections with Australia's university, government employee, NGO. The support from the Griffith university's staff and the vibrant learning environment greatly enhanced my professional and personal growth. I am grateful for the opportunity to contribute to my organization and community with the knowledge gained, and I look forward to applying these experiences to make a positive impact.”

Anonymous Participant