



MEDIA RELEASE

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Eden Park and The Cookie Project join forces to empower Kiwis with disabilities

Eden Park and The Cookie Project have announced a partnership which sees the social enterprise operating from a kitchen within New Zealand's national stadium, creating more employment opportunities for Kiwis with disabilities.

Founded in 2018, The Cookie Project provides meaningful employment to Kiwis with disabilities by hand making cookies and paying at least the adult minimum wage of \$18.90 an hour. Since its inception, over 2,400 hours of employment has been generated.

Co-founder and CEO at The Cookie Project, Eric Chuah, says the impact of the first COVID-19 lockdown left the social enterprise without access to a safe premises for its employees to bake from.

"A week before we were scheduled to move in to a new commercial kitchen, the landowners were spooked out of the lease due to the second lockdown resurgence. This took a massive mental toll on the whole team, including our bakers.

"After reaching out on social media for urgent assistance, the warm-hearted team at Eden Park connected with us and within ten days we had a new home! We're incredibly thankful for the lifeline they've given us and our bakers – we're now gearing up to prepare for the festive trading season with our 2020 Christmas Cookie Bundle! This wouldn't have been possible without Eden Park's support to create a more diverse and inclusive Aotearoa," Chuah ends.

Eden Park CEO Nick Sautner says the opportunity to welcome The Cookie Project to the stadium aligns with the organisation's ongoing community values.

"Eden Park is committed to being an inclusive venue for Auckland and New Zealand and community is at the core of our Game Plan. Our economy needs to support small businesses and Eden Park can play a key role, both socially and economically, in rebuilding communities and providing lasting memories.

"This partnership showcases the ability to leverage brands for good and utilise idle capacity to benefit all Kiwis. Meeting the faces behind The Cookie Project, and witnessing how they benefit from employment, proves the success and heart behind this genuine feel-good story. Their cookies are a welcome addition in my office!" says Sautner.

The Cookie Project products are available for purchase at the stadium's Entry G Reception, and will soon be available for purchase at selected Eden Park fixtures and events, as well as through the [online store](#).

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About The Cookie Project

The Cookie Project is a social enterprise employing Kiwis with disabilities to bake cookies. Founded in 2018, its purpose is to help Kiwis with disabilities understand their own value to themselves and to society by paying them at least the minimum wage. With no preservatives, additives or colouring, The Cookie Project uses the finest Kiwi ingredients to hand-make premium cookies that change lives. To find out more, visit <https://thecookieprojectnz.com>.

About Eden Park

Eden Park is New Zealand's national stadium and a globally iconic arena, located in central Auckland. Eden Park Trust operates as a statutory not-for-profit body corporate, registered as a charitable trust with the Charities Commission. Its objectives are to promote, operate and develop Eden Park as a high quality multi-purpose stadium for the use and benefit of rugby and cricket as well as other sporting codes and other recreational, musical, and cultural events for the benefit of the public of the Auckland region.

Each year, more than half a million sports and entertainment fans from around the world visit Eden Park. The stadium successfully hosts sell-out crowds of up to 50,000 on match days and hosts more than 1,000 non-match day functions per year. A range of community initiatives are also hosted throughout the year including the likes of The Lifewise Big Sleepout, Auckland City Mission Christmas Appeal, Walk for Awareness (SNAP Fitness – Mental Health), Japan Day, NZ Eid Day, The World's Biggest Bootcamp, Eden Rugby Holiday Clinic, Field of Dreams, The Block NZ: Firehouse, Learn 2 Ride (Auckland Transport) and the Eden Park Dog Walking Club, as well as local school assemblies and duathlons.

To find out more, visit <https://edenpark.co.nz/>

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