An Environmental Management Officer comes knocking. She asks:

Why didn’t you come to the neighbourhood meeting about the drought?
You explain that you have no time and no childcare cover.
You discuss how hard-working mothers like you could be more involved in neighbourhood consultations.

How has the drought affected you and what would improve your situation?
You say that the drought and reduction in farm produce is driving up the price of food. So, it’s getting harder for your earnings to buy enough food for the family.

This time, you manage to attend the neighbourhood meeting.

There is an idea for an organised group in the community to till some common ground as a kitchen garden and use some bio-fertiliser and water saving technologies. Fruits and vegetables from the scheme could supplement what little food you can buy in the market with your meagre earnings. You are interested to get involved and might be something you could juggle with your roles as breadwinner and mother. … What else is on your mind?

Discuss with the group.