

What the tenants say

'Simple day-to-day connections bring value to my life, and were great learning experiences as my daughter grew up.'

Robyn, Pinakarri.

'It is a privilege to have affordable housing that provides me with security and company and belonging to a place.'

Susan, Freo Fringe

'We have gained confidence in learning new skills; learned to get along with other co-ops; and enjoyed the social life of living in a co-op.'

Positives – facilitation skills, build new friendships, it's not all about me, and finance; empowerment; caring, having co-operative neighbours; learning new skills; opportunity to care for land and houses, including adjoining bushland; supportive setting for living.'

Basil, Mia Mia

'I've gained freedom from having to spend too much time away from our children to make money and pay today's exorbitant rental prices; and having relationships with people I ordinarily wouldn't.'

Leigh, Freo Fringe.

'Knowing and forming a relationship with my community. A feeling of connection with my home and environment.'

Learning skills and co-operation skills.' Debra, Freo Fringe.

Have you explored all the options?

As a tenant, community leader or developer, housing co-operatives are an excellent investment in your community.



Federation of Housing Collectives

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HOUSING CO-OPERATIVES



*An innovative
housing option*

HOUSING CO-OPERATIVES

What are they?

Housing co-operatives are not-for-profit member managed associations. They provide secure, affordable, quality housing which is designed and managed by co-op members.

Housing co-operatives can provide some of the benefits of home ownership without the related financial difficulties. Co-operatives provide:

- Quality, affordable housing with security of tenure. Rent is calculated at around 25% of gross income
- The opportunity to choose where you wish to live
- The opportunity to design, maintain and manage your own home
- Anyone can be a member of a co-operative, however, tenants will have to be eligible for public housing
- There are a number of different models for funding a co-operative which include
 - 100% grant funded
 - Part equity contribution
 - Joint ventures, eg local government/state housing authority.



Housing co-operatives operate in line with the International Principles of Co-operation.

Housing co-operative members understand and are committed to the International Principles of Co-operation and the Co-operative Values of self help, self responsibility, democracy, equality, equity, solidarity and sustainability.

Co-operatives actively co-operate with other co-operative organisations on a local, national and international level.

Co-operatives are committed to their own development, ie: the development of a community that co-operates in various ways eg: the sharing of:

Material resources

Childcare

Work projects

Food gardens

Transport.

A co-operative is its members! Each co-operative is very different as it reflects the needs, ideas and desires of the members.

Benefits of co-operative housing include:

- Education and training aimed at helping members to effectively run the co-operative; and to gain confidence in their abilities and skills
- Being part of a democratic and co-operative organisation which values all members and their contributions
- Being part of a supportive and friendly community.

The Federation of Housing Collectives (FOHCOL)

The Federation is the peak representative body of the co-operative housing sector in Western Australia.

The role of the Federation is:

To establish a service and provide advice to housing co-operatives

To provide information and education about housing co-operatives

To promote co-operative housing as another form of housing

To facilitate co-operation between housing co-operatives and other related organisations

To represent the co-operative sector to the wider community.

'...when dwellers control the major decisions and are free to make their own contribution to the design, construction or management of their housing, both the process and the environment produced stimulate individual well being.'

Freedom to Build: Dweller Control of the Housing Process

Turner, John F. C. and R. Fichter. 1972. New York: The Macmillan Company.

