



## **Federation of Housing Collectives**

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# **Housing Co-operatives in Western Australia**

**Three key groups make up the Western Australian housing co-operative sector:-**

## **1) The Housing Co-operatives and their members**

Housing Co-operatives are member controlled housing. The members are the ones responsible for running the co-op. Each member has a vote and every year members elect a board of directors from the membership. Members make decisions about how the buildings will be maintained and how the business of the co-op will be managed. Members work together to keep their housing well-managed and affordable. Housing co-operatives promote a sense of co-operation and of community.

Housing co-operatives adhere to the International Principles of Co-operation which are

- (1) voluntary and open membership;
- (2) democratic member control;
- (3) member economic participation;
- (4) autonomy and independence;
- (5) education, training, and information;
- (6) co-operation among co-operatives; and
- (7) concern for community.

## 2) FOHCOL

The Federation of Housing Collectives is the peak body for the Western Australian housing co-operative sector. Established in 1987, FOHCOL facilitates the growth and sustainability of housing co-operatives in Western Australia according to the Principles of Co-operation.

The role of the Federation is:

- To provide advice and service member and emerging housing co-operatives
- To provide information and education about housing co-operatives to individuals and organisations
- To promote housing co-operatives and self management as an affordable, sustainable and viable form of housing
- To consult with organisations to help establish and develop new housing co-operatives
- To facilitate co-operation between housing co-operatives and other related organisations
- To represent the housing co-operative sector to government, other stakeholders and the wider community

## 3) Co-operation Housing – Homes for Sustainable Communities

Co-operation Housing is a not for profit company limited by guarantee established by several member housing co-operatives in early 2010. Its principal objective is to own or lease residential properties to expand the housing co-operative sector. It also supports members in the management of their own homes with property and tenancy management support and services. Co-operation Housing member housing co-operatives have been involved in tenancy and property management for several decades. Collectively, this first hand exposure makes Co-operation Housing one of the most experienced tenancy and property managers in the affordable housing arena.

**Please note** – some of this material has been assembled from work provided freely by other co-operative ventures working for the benefit of all. We gratefully acknowledge their combined support.

FOHCOL facilitates the development and sustainability of Housing Co-operatives in Western Australia according to the International Principles of Co-operation. [Incorporated since 1987]