

# Co-op Connect

Promoting the housing co-operative model

Spring 2016



## MORE SERVICES NOW AVAILABLE TO YOU

We are pleased to announce that we have successfully renewed our registration with the ATO as a BAS agent for a further three-year period. This means we can continue to offer professional BAS-registered bookkeeping services to any interested organisation.

In addition, we have recently expanded our other specialised service offerings to include project management of medium to large maintenance projects, and specific aspects of compliance such as transitioning to the new incorporated associations legislation.

Our fee for these services is very affordable at just \$65 per hour plus GST.

For more information or a quote, please contact us (see below).

## TIME FOR GROWTH!

Spring is a time of growth, and here at Co-operation Housing we've been working on an exciting potential growth opportunity for WA's housing co-operative sector.

The City of Fremantle has called for expressions of interest in presenting a demonstration affordable housing project to be sited at 7 Quarry Street in the Fremantle CBD. The project will aim to address Fremantle's shortage of affordable housing, and must be based on the concept of a *baugruppe* (German for 'building group') – a self-funding group of members who collaborate with an architect and/or a builder to design and build an affordable, multi-household development to house themselves.

We have committed to submitting a demonstration project based on the housing co-operative model. To this end our CEO Rebecca Hicks (above, third from left) has been collaborating with sustainable housing developer Eugenie Stockmann (left), housing co-operatives specialist Dr Elizabeth Cheong (right), housing co-operatives supporter Andrew Shack, architect Sid Thoo (second from left) and development manager Anthony Rizzacasa on an innovative, affordable and sustainable housing project.

Our project will aim to appeal to people currently unable to afford to buy their own home and seeking a sense of belonging, community and connectedness. It may also include some commercial space to allow for the possibility of inviting social or other enterprises to be part of the development.

This is an opportunity to showcase how the co-operative model can help to address the significant challenge of housing affordability and sustainability.

We are currently hosting a series of free information sessions to invite people interested in the project to engage with it and become involved.

Please see over for more information on upcoming information sessions.



### Co-operation Housing

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ACN 142 277 003 ABN 86 142 277 003

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## LOOKING TO LIVE IN AN URBAN CO-OPERATIVE?

As noted overleaf, we are currently developing a demonstration co-operative housing-style project to present to the City of Fremantle to address the local shortage of affordable housing. It will be based jointly on the co-operative model and the contemporary European *baugruppen* (“building group”) model, which promotes affordability, sharing of resources, community and sustainability.

Everyone is welcome to our free information session to find out more, so please come along and also spread the word to anyone else who might be interested.

**When:** 2.30–4.30 pm, Sunday 27 November 2016

**Where:** The Meeting Place, 245 South Terrace, Fremantle

**RSVP:** (essential) please call 9336 5045 to book your free place

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## POLICY PROGRESS

To progress our internal policy development, we have harnessed the services of a volunteer policy development officer to assist with drafting and updating policies based on the work of our Policy Advisory Committee (PAC).

Externally, some of our PAC members will be attending the Community Housing Industry Association’s (CHIA’s) upcoming rent-setting workshop, which will focus on the Housing Authority’s proposed new rent-setting policy.

We’ve also been selected to join the Housing Authority’s Policy Consultation Advisory Group, to provide direct feedback on its proposed Community Housing Policy Manual, which will cover eligibility, allocation and rent setting.



## STRONGER TOGETHER

Over the past few months we’ve supported our member housing co-operatives through their transition to the newly introduced *Associations Incorporation Act 2015*, which came into effect on 1 July.

We’ve provided fact sheets and compliance timetables, and alerted them to training opportunities relating to a wide range of issues that affect them.

We’ve also, at our members’ request, expanded our services to include various aspects of compliance and project management of specific maintenance projects, as well as BAS-registered bookkeeping.

We’re here for our members, and they know they can depend on us for support, assistance, guidance, advocacy and more.

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## SHARE YOUR STORY

The Henry Project is seeking people living in co-operative housing to feature in a short video, sharing their stories of living in a community and what they most value about it.

Interested? Email Meriam at: [meriam@twentysixletters.com.au](mailto:meriam@twentysixletters.com.au)



## CO-OPERATIVE HOUSING SYMPOSIUM HELD

On Saturday 29 October, the Federation of Housing Collectives (FOHCOL) hosted a symposium on co-operative housing at the Hackney Hotel in Adelaide.

A resident-guided tour of well-known cohousing development Christie Walk (above) was also available before the symposium.

## More information

[www.facebook.com/FOHCOL](http://www.facebook.com/FOHCOL)