

# Co-op Connect Winter 2015



## HOUSING CO-OPS HIT THE AIRWAVES

The benefits of housing co-ops got some airtime recently when ABC Radio National's *Life Matters* dedicated a program to the topic of neighbours, community and "the increasing popularity of housing co-ops".

If you didn't catch the program, you can listen to it here:

[www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/lifematters/can-you-still-borrow-a-cup-of-sugar-from-your-neighbour3f/6377126](http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/lifematters/can-you-still-borrow-a-cup-of-sugar-from-your-neighbour3f/6377126)

## JOINT TENANCY LAW WORKSHOP A GREAT SUCCESS!

In May, Co-operation Housing joined forces with FOHCOL and Legal Aid WA to co-operatively deliver a Tenancy Law workshop designed specifically for residents of housing co-operatives.

The workshop was the first in a series intended to educate housing co-operative residents about their rights and responsibilities as both tenants and landlords. Participants, who came from the First Fremantle, Inanna's House, Pinakarri and Subi-Leederville housing collectives, described it as well run, informative, interesting and useful.

Thank you to Tarna Bulman, solicitor with Legal Aid WA, for the excellent presentation.

A resource pack from the day is available to any co-op that would like one, whether they attended or not. If you would like one, please contact us.



### Co-operation Housing

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## A CHANCE TO SHOW THE VALUE OF CO-OPERATION

Co-operation Housing is excited to announce that on 1 July this year we took on the management of an affordable housing complex for seniors for the City of Fremantle. We have already begun inviting the residents of the complex to start having a say in the management of their own homes and community, with the long-term objective of introducing a best-practice model of management based on the international co-operative principles.



We see this development as an excellent opportunity to demonstrate to the City of Fremantle and to the broader community the many benefits of the co-operative model over other models of affordable housing provision.

May this opportunity be the first of many!

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## NATIONAL HOUSING CO-OPERATIVE NETWORK INITIATED



Co-operation Housing has joined forces with WA's Federation of Housing Collectives (FOHCOL), Common Equity NSW and Common Equity Housing Ltd (Victoria) to form the new National Housing Co-operative Network.

With each group supporting common-equity rental housing co-operatives in its respective state, the network has already begun holding regular teleconferences to share ideas, pool information and start jointly tackling common challenges.

It is anticipated that the corresponding bodies in other states will soon join, so that together we can strengthen the profile of housing co-operatives, provide a united voice to the relevant national bodies, prepare joint submissions to government inquiries and consultation forums, and develop a national evidence base to illustrate the economic and social benefits of housing co-operatives and their potential contribution to addressing the current housing crisis.

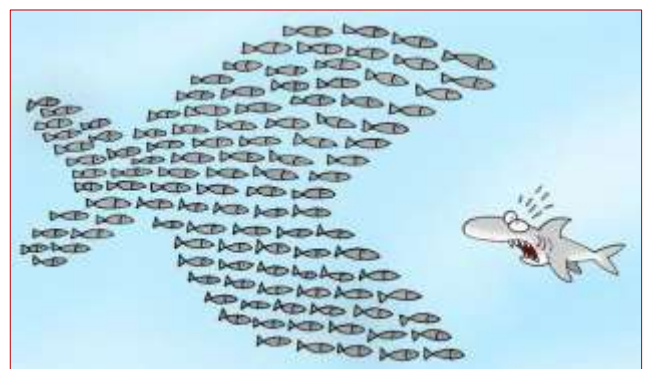
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## SPEAKING UP FOR THE CO-OPERATIVE MODEL

Submissions were recently invited to a Senate Inquiry into the role of co-ops, mutual and member-owned firms in the Australian economy. Co-operation Housing made a submission on behalf of its members and of the WA housing co-operative sector as a whole.



The inquiry committee is due to report by 30 November 2015.



*It's amazing what a bit of co-operation can achieve!*

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### OPENING DOORS

The National Housing Conference is the largest cross-sector meeting focusing on affordable housing delivery in Australasia.

This year's conference, titled 'Opening Doors', will be held in Perth from 28 to 30 October.

**More information**  
[www.nhc.edu.au](http://www.nhc.edu.au)