

## Williamstown Rental Housing Co-operative Policy Document

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<b>Policy Name:</b>	<b>Community Engagement</b>
<b>Version Number:</b>	<b>03</b>
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### 1. Introduction

Williamstown Rental Housing Co-operative (WRHC) recognises the need for strong community involvement amongst members and with the wider Community Housing sector.

### 2. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that members feel included in the running and decision-making processes within the Co-op.

WRHC recognises that it is part of a larger Community Housing and Co-operative Sector, and as such, acknowledges the need to be well informed and actively involved in issues and trends affecting the sector.

### 3. Scope

All members and employees of WRHC.

### 4. Relevant Co-operative Values

**Co-operation:** Consulting and informing our members to ensure the decision-making process is equal. Engaging with other Co-operatives and like-minded organisations for the improvement of services and support to members.

**Skill Sharing:** Sharing of skills based on the educational needs of the members and the direction of the Co-operative.

### 5. Policy

WRHC and its members have rights and responsibilities in relation to Community Engagement.

WRHC will promote and actively engage with members through:

- the holding of four General Meetings per year;
- ongoing subcommittee meetings;
- the preparation and dissemination of a quarterly “Four Seasons Newsletter”;
- the organisation of Social Functions i.e., movie nights, suppers and Christmas Dinners;
- a “What’s on” monthly calendar;
- regular member training sessions including, but not limited to, Governance and Board Training; and

- the maintenance of a training budget accessible to all members.
- WRHC will maintain its involvement with the broader Community Housing Sector by:
  - Maintaining its membership with Community Housing Industry Association (CHIA Victoria and Australia)
  - Attending monthly Co-operative Housing Sector Group meetings run by CHIA Vic.; and
  - Sharing information and problem-solving with other Rental Housing Co-operatives by participating in forums and research projects as they occur.

## **6. Responsibilities**

WRHC is responsible for encouraging members to feel part of the Co-op and the wider Community Housing sector.

Members are responsible for understanding their commitment to participate as part of the Co-operative throughout their membership period.

## **7. Definitions**

Member: a current tenant of WRHC

## **8. Related documentation, legislation and standards**

Policy 02 Code of Conduct

Policy 15 Bullying Harassment

Policy 23 Member Obligation

## **Transparency and accessibility**

This policy will be available on the WRHC website [www.williamstownhousingcoop.org.au](http://www.williamstownhousingcoop.org.au)