

# foundation **focus**

Newsletter for Foundation Housing tenants and residents  **Winter 2021**

**Want to have your voice and ideas heard?** Develop new skills and make a difference by joining the CORT!



*“This involvement has given me a sense of belonging and commitment. Foundation Housing has listened, and I feel heard.” - Mike, Dawesville*

Any Foundation Housing tenant or lodge resident can apply to join the CORT and Carers of tenants can also apply. As a member of the CORT, you will:





- ☒ Provide feedback on policies and procedures that impact you
- ☒ Raise issues on policy and service
- ☒ Provide feedback on how you are communicated with

Residents and tenants from regional areas are encouraged to be involved and will be provided with support.

**Turn to the next page to find out how to get involved!**

The Committee of Residents and Tenants (CORT) is a new resident and tenant-led group that provides a forum for you to give feedback to help improve the way Foundation Housing services are delivered.

Mike from Dawesville has been working with Foundation Housing to develop the CORT since March and encourages people who have the following qualities to get involved:

-  Understanding & respect for **diversity**
-  **Commitment** to formal meetings
-  A willingness to **listen and learn**
-  Ability to contribute **ideas and suggestions**

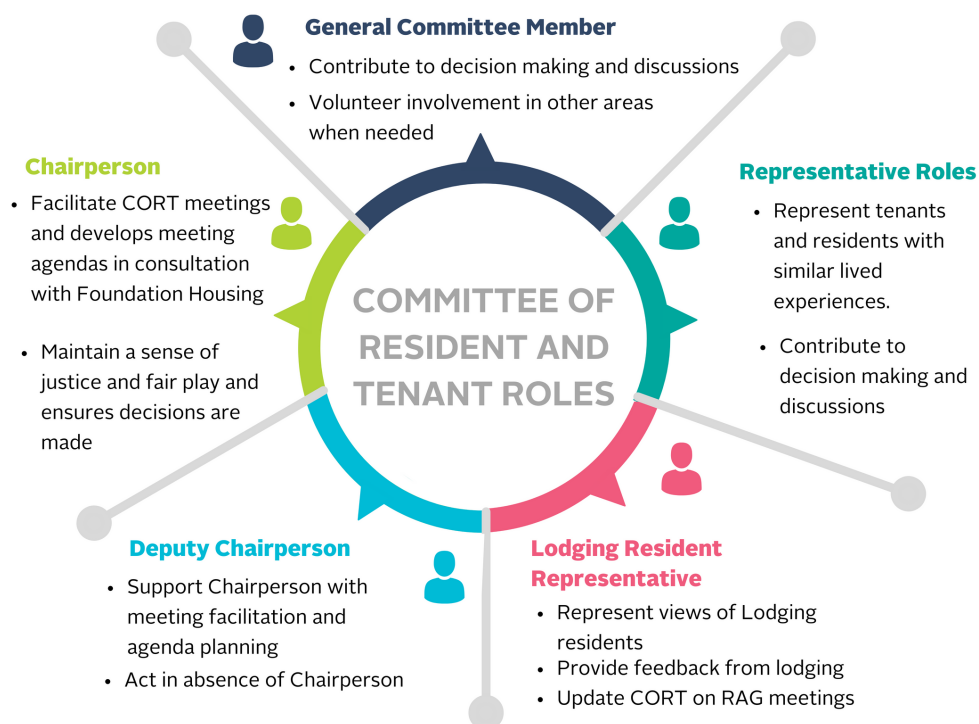
# CORT Roles

## How do I get involved?

Complete the nomination form enclosed or [click here](https://www.foundationhousing.org.au/cort-nomination/).

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Committee roles will be selected through an election process or via a lottery system.



## Ten-Year Anniversary for 211 tenants

### “Happy 10th anniversary with Foundation Housing!”

That's what we said to 12 tenants in Dawesville last month, as we celebrated together with a barbeque and cake.

In fact, 211 of our tenants are celebrating ten years with us this year, because it was ten years ago that the WA Government provided a portion of their housing stock across Perth to organisations such as Foundation Housing to stimulate the community housing sector. Sally from Dawesville reminisced during the celebration. “It's been a great ten years, I don't know where I'd be living if it wasn't here,” she said.

Happy ten-year anniversary to all of our tenants who are also celebrating this milestone!



## Winter Hazards

Keep safe during the colder months. Remember to do the following this cold season:

- Keep curtains, wet clothes, towels and any other fabrics away from portable heaters;
- Never leave burning candles or open flames unattended;
- Don't use your oven or gas cooktop to heat up the room;
- Never cover smoke sensors or hang anything off fire sprinklers;
- Check electric blankets for loose or frayed wiring.



# Want to re-engage with your community?



Want to explore your local community and develop a feeling of belonging? Then the 'Re-Engaging in Community' (REC) program by United Way is for you!

Think catching the bus together, finding out where the local walking group meets, joining a volunteer group, or even working out where you might join in some art classes. The list goes on!

This program is designed to assist those who are currently housed after experiencing homelessness, but are still feeling socially isolated and need support to go out and explore their community. Participants are carefully matched with a volunteer based on mutual interests and availability. REC participants have stated that their involvement in the program has increased their confidence in communicating with other people and made them feel more comfortable when they are out in the community.

For more information and to apply [click here](#).



## Accessing Grants for Our Residents

In October last year, the State Government announced a one-off electricity account credit to reduce electricity bills for all residential customers. This announcement got staff thinking about our own tenants and residents who could really benefit from such a payment.

"We started thinking about the lodge residents, and some of our tenants who don't have their own Synergy account. We didn't want them to miss out on the \$600 so we asked the government what could be done", said Rob, Housing Team Leader. The Government then provided an application process that could be followed in these instances.

In light of this, our Lodging Coordinators delivered all the required application forms to residents and helped them apply. Once completed, all documentation was submitted to the Department of Finance. In total, there were 127 applications and all have received confirmation of



Julia with resident Shannon who received the rebate

approval for the subsidy. That's over \$76,000 direct to our tenants and residents! Lodging Coordinator Lisa stated 'the residents have been really grateful of all the help the team gave especially with the follow-up documents which was a big task to put together.'

**Competition Time!** Put on your gardening gloves and send in a photo of how you are keeping your room or house green this winter for a chance to win a \$50 voucher to Bunnings! Send entries to [communications@foundationhousing.org.au](mailto:communications@foundationhousing.org.au).

## Community Kindness



David has lived at our Newcastle Street Lodge for 8 years, and his love of pet fish is well known. He believes that the beautiful, quiet creatures can lift anyone's mood and we agree!

Lodging Coordinators Lisa and Clara were delighted when David gave them a fish tank complete with fish and equipment for their office at the Lodge. "It really brightens up our little office and can be a welcome distraction when you are having those difficult conversation. It is really appreciated by both staff and residents alike" Lisa said.

The kindness shown by people like David help to make Newcastle Street a friendly community to live in.



## Notice board

### Can we reach you?

Do you get our emails? Email is the fastest way to get general information to you! If you are not receiving emails from us but have an email address, please ask your Housing Coordinator to update your records.

### Turning off sprinklers

From the 1st June to 31st August the use of automatic watering systems is not permitted and they must be switched off. Should gardens and lawns be looking a little dry hand watering is still permitted over this period.

### Telephone Support

- Lifeline: 13 11 14
- Beyond Blue: 1300 22 4636
- Mens Helpline: 9234 8600
- Legal Aid: 1300 78 9978
- Law Society WA: 1300 650 579
- 24/7 Crisis Support: 13 52 47

## Leederville

### Reception Hours

As of 22 July, Foundation Housing reception in Leederville will close on a Thursday morning to enable time for team training and meetings. Reception will be open the following hours:

**Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday:** 8.30am-4.30pm

**Thursday:** 12.30pm-4.30pm

If you call the office on a Thursday morning, you can leave a voicemail message which will be addressed on Thursday afternoon. You can still call your Housing or Lodging Coordinator on direct numbers during this time.

## Be part of our newsletters

Do you have a story to tell or photo to submit? We would love to hear from you. Email [communications@foundationhousing.org.au](mailto:communications@foundationhousing.org.au) or speak to your Housing or Lodging Coordinator to be included in the newsletter.



[foundationhousing.org.au](http://foundationhousing.org.au)



### CONTACT US

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### JOONDALUP AND MIDLAND OFFICES (By Appointment Only)

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For all maintenance requests and emergencies, please contact us on 1300 895 205.