



Community Gardens



Community Gardens are where communities can utilise an area of land for growing vegetables, fruit or flowers. Community gardening is a fulfilling and satisfying experience which builds relationships within the community and develops the natural environment.

To express interest in starting a community garden in your unit complex a Community Garden Application form must be completed and handed into your Housing Officer. You must nominate a lead tenant/resident (spokesperson from your group, to be the contact person) for the purpose of processing the application.

Our approval must be received in writing prior to commencing any work towards establishing a community garden, including the lodgement of grant applications. Once approved all tenants/residents participating in the community garden must abide by the following conditions:

- The Community Garden Group will be responsible for all establishment and ongoing maintenance costs.
- The group will also be responsible for associated expenditure and financial accountabilities of grant or donation funds received.
- Any future community garden improvements or redevelopments must be done in consultation with the service and be approved in writing.
- An organic model of gardening must be adopted to control soil fertility and pests, with no chemicals or insecticides to be used at any time.
- All building materials used for the construction of or near garden beds must be free of poisons and toxic substances. For example, treated pine must not be used.
- All plants and organic material must be legal and not classed as an “exotic weed” as defined by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.
- The use of motorised digging equipment is not permitted for use in gardening activities.
- Structures and fixtures including; garden beds, potting benches and shade structures, must be; robust, safe and fit to withstand severe weather conditions. Structures and fixtures must be approved by the service.
- Work Health and Safety practices must be adhered to at all times and in all activities related to the community garden.
- Group members must take responsibility for adhering to Work Health and Safety requirements and ensure that they have sound knowledge of the legislation.
- Members must make a commitment to work cooperatively and respectfully with each other in developing and maintaining the garden.
- Members must take responsibility for the day to day organisation and management of garden activities including associated costs.
- Approved community gardens are regarded as common areas, to which all residents of the unit complex have the right to access and benefit from.
- Members acknowledge and accept that, from time to time, produce will be taken by residents, who have not contributed to cultivation. In such cases, although it may seem unfair, members must agree not to take action against the persons and always foster an inclusive environment.



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- Churches of Christ Care Housing Services will not be responsible for, nor become involved in, disputes arising from the community garden unless intervention is required under the Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation Act 2008.
- In the event of unresolved conflict surrounding Community Garden activities, or failure to comply with the prescribed conditions, permitted use of the area for the Community Garden may be withdrawn.

For further information, or to obtain a Community Garden Application form, please contact your Housing Officer or nearest Regional Housing Office, or email us at housingservices@cofcqld.com.au.