



## Other Organisation Types - Charities and Cooperatives

### What is a charity?

- an organisation or club collecting money or goods from the public for charitable purposes; and
- needs to be licensed under the Charitable Collections Act.

For more information contact the Charitable Collections Advisory Committee to become a charity.

### What is a co-operative?

- A co-operative is a legal entity owned and controlled by the people for whom it was established and who benefit from using its services. A registered co-operative is a body corporate and in Western Australia, may be formed by a minimum of five individuals or corporations.
- In forming a co-operative, members agree to use its services and to contribute capital to fund the enterprise, usually by purchasing shares.
- Funds are contributed not for capital gain but for service or trading benefits.

### What can a co-operative do?

- Co-operatives may be set up for a very wide range of social and economic activities, such as retailing, agriculture, manufacturing, child care, housing, marketing, arts and crafts and taxi services.
- For instance, people in a rural community may establish a co-operative supermarket to buy food in bulk so that its members have access to cheaper goods. As another example, a group of small agricultural producers may set up a co-operative in order to buy and share equipment.

WA.Dept. of Commerce, [www.commerce.wa.gov.au](http://www.commerce.wa.gov.au) (accessed 25 June 2010)

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