

Beyond the White Picket Fence

Reimagining how we **live** together



Savannah Fishel



thinkitforward.net

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Who **helps** you
live your life?





This is Mikoto, a resident at Murundaka, an all-rental affordable cooperative in Melbourne

“I’m a single mum, but my son has always had **role models** around. Everyone has skills to share.”

“People think they need money because no one will look after them. If you have community, you chase this less, and then you can be more open to connecting with and supporting others.”



Resident of a rural cooperative, Victoria



Intergenerational communal housing

Visits to 54

intergenerational, community-orientated permanent housing models with a mix of private and shared spaces.

United States: 38
Australia: 16

In scope

- Cohousing
- Housing cooperatives
- Ecovillages
- Tiny home villages
- Homesharing
- Supported independent housing
- Intentional communities
- Self-governed and staffed communities

Out of scope

- Short-Term / Transitional Housing
- Multigenerational Family Households
- Income-Sharing Communities
- Single Age-Group Housing
- Assisted Living & Nursing Homes

Who am I?



ThinkItForward.Net



more united

150,000 members

MP Network
spanning **six parties**

Events around the UK

The image shows two women, one in a blue dress and one in a black dress, holding up a sign that says 'more united' and a logo with a stylized 'M'.



National
Voices

The logo features a purple stylized 'V' shape above the text 'National Voices'.



THE CARES FAMILY

The logo features a black heart inside a white circle, with the text 'THE CARES FAMILY' below it.

the
CHURCHILL
fellowship

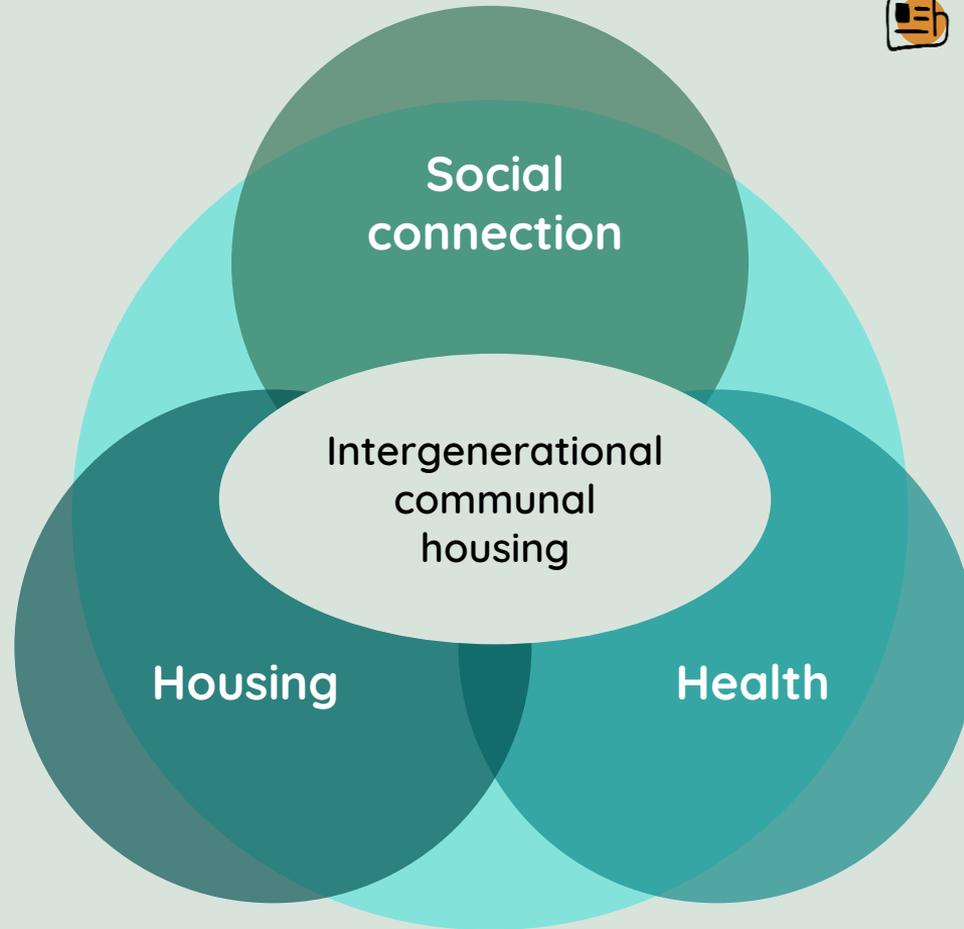
The logo features the text 'the CHURCHILL fellowship' in a bold, red, sans-serif font.



Innovation
Unit

Creating impact
Reducing inequalities
Transforming systems

The logo features a stylized 'I' icon with a yellow square above it, followed by the text 'Innovation Unit' and a list of three bullet points.



**Social
connection**

**Intergenerational
communal
housing**

Housing

Health

thinkitforward.net

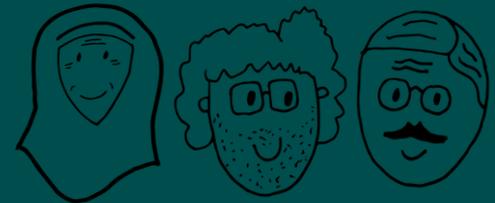
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A **companion** for intergenerational communal housing



Savannah Fishel



For older adults: Reduced loneliness and informal support networks, security to age in place, purpose and belonging.



For parents: A village-like support system, making childcare less isolating and more affordable.



For younger people: Access to mentorship, role models, shared amenities and a broader web of care.



For broader society: Greater resilience, shared resources, sustainable living and reduced burden on public services.



“Kids have endless babysitters” –
there is beautiful intermingling
across ages... It’s so rich what kids
give community and what
community gives them.”



Urban ecovillage
resident, Adelaide



Neighbourisms



Safety and security



Cultivating community



Building relationships



Small acts of kindness



Sharing and exchange



Practical help



LA Ecovillage, Los Angeles

Urban intentional cohousing cooperative committed to demonstrating an economically and socially sustainable way of living

-  Approx 50 residents aged 3-87
-  Urban
-  Residents are primarily very low to middle income and intentionally diverse across age, ethnicity, gender, house composition and income
-  Move in year: 1993
-  Limited equity cooperative. Land Trust ensures permanent affordability through a ground lease arrangement.

“Living in LA can be ruthless, nuclear, **anonymous**. Here people know each other. There’s a coziness.”



Quotes from current residents

Wild Sage & Silver Sage Village, Boulder

Silver Sage Village and Wild Sage are two adjacent cohousing communities, integrating aging and intergenerational living within a single development.

-  Wild Sage has 34 townhomes, while Silver Sage has 16 units made. At Wild Sage residents are aged 0 - 92
-  Mixed income. Residents at Silver Sage are seniors, while Wild Sage is intergenerational
-  At both, 40% of units are affordable through City of Boulder income and deed restricted.



“The goal is to generate a better, more delightful life, to share resources, and to live in a way that is more **fulfilling** and fun”



Quotes are from current residents.

Queen City Cooperative, Colorado

A limited-equity cooperative in a single-family home



9 residents in a single building, aged 5-52. In total, the cooperative includes three buildings



Residents are diverse across income, age, race and class



Urban



Move in year: 2015



Limited equity cooperative

“Property ownership provides wealth creation and stability - we wanted to find a way that this could be **shared.**”



Quotes from current residents

Building blocks for intergenerational communal living

Skill building,
learning and
shared experiences

Celebration, care
and personal
acknowledgement

Evolution and
renewal

Belonging and Purpose

Community
rhythms and rituals

Community
agreements and
processes

Accessible and
transparent
communication

Social Infrastructure

Child and age-
friendly design

Multi-purpose and
transition-friendly
design

Designing for
connection and
privacy

Physical Foundation

Resource security and sustainable policy foundations

Building blocks for intergenerational communal living

Resource security and sustainable policy foundations



Building blocks for intergenerational communal living

Child and age-
friendly design

Multi-purpose
and transition-
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Designing for
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Accessible and
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Social infrastructure



Building blocks for intergenerational communal living

Skill building,
learning and
shared
experiences

Celebration, care
and personal
acknowledgement

Evolution and
renewal

Belonging and Purpose



A spectrum of possibility





Design for
connection

Invest in **social**
infrastructure

Incentivise
alternative living
arrangements

“Life past 60 can be tough; you feel alienated, cut off from your livelihood and community. Living alone can be horrifying – but not here. I got a new lease of life when I thought I was heading into isolation.”



Resident of an urban
ecovillage in
California, aged 74,

“This community has been a lifeline... If someone hasn’t experienced living like this, they’ve missed out.”



Urban ecovillage
resident in his 60s,
California