

## **VISION, VALUES AND PRINCIPLES**

### **1. VISION**

Stellulata Cohousing is a small community in Canberra consisting of private two-bedroom townhouses and shared resources including a common house and gardens. Members work together to develop and maintain functional and enjoyable living spaces, which builds and maintains a welcoming environment for each other, our neighbourhood, family and friends. Community members enjoy the benefits of our own homes while sharing our common spaces and resources and fairly contributing to the community costs and tasks.

### **2. VALUES**

- (a) We recognise the community is situated on lands that the Ngunnawal, Ngambri, and other First Nations peoples have lived and met on for thousands of years. We acknowledge that sovereignty has never been ceded.
- (b) We trust, respect and accept one another.
- (c) We collaborate in community tasks, decision making and conflict resolution.
- (d) We manage our shared resources prudently for the benefit of all residents.
- (e) We appreciate and protect the independence and privacy of our individual units.
- (f) We support each other by sharing resources and knowledge and spending time together.
- (g) We contribute to our immediate and wider neighbourhood.
- (h) We live lightly on the earth.

### **3. PRINCIPLES**

Although our community is small, we follow the principles of cohousing.

- (a) Participatory process - Residents participate in the design of the community so that it meets their needs.
- (b) Building and landscape design - The physical layout and orientation of the buildings encourage a sense of community and social interactions.
- (c) Common facilities - Common facilities are designed for daily use, are an integral part of the community, and are always supplemental to the private residences.
- (d) Resident management - Residents directly manage the cohousing community, and perform much of the work required to maintain the property.
- (e) Non-hierarchical structure and decision-making - Each person takes on one or more roles consistent with their skills, abilities and interests. Decisions are made collaboratively.

Building a strong, collaborative community is a continued focus at Stellulata:

- (f) We share a meal together approximately once a week.
- (g) We work together on community projects.

- (h) We meet regularly to solve problems and make decisions for the community.
- (i) We strive to improve the community for the benefit of all residents.
- (j) We create our own traditions.

To support our desire to live lightly on the earth:

- (k) We choose to walk, cycle or use public transport in preference to motor vehicles where possible.
- (l) We minimise our negative impact on the natural world including our carbon emissions. Sharing is at the heart of our community.
- (m) We freely share a common house, including kitchen, laundry, freezer and garage plus common gardens, shared vehicles and other resources.
- (n) All costs outside of the private dwellings are agreed and shared equitably.

We maintain a system of fair participation in community tasks based on each resident's skills, abilities and interests.