

Benefits of modern cohousing

As development in Aotearoa's cities intensifies, so too does the need to encourage diverse building and living solutions. While cohousing remains a relatively niche housing model in Aotearoa, what could it look like if it was the norm?

BY JAMES BERGHAN, LECTURER IN URBAN DESIGN, UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO



Artist's render of Dunedin's Toiora cohousing development.

THE PACE of urban intensification is obvious in the changing face of the landscapes of every major metropolis from Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland to Te Whanganui-a-Tara Wellington to Ōtautahi Christchurch. Take any major arterial route from the central city to the suburbs, and it's clear to see the increasing number of medium and high-density buildings popping up on what were previously quarter-acre sections.

Time to look at housing alternatives

As we make the move to live in smaller spaces, it's also time to reflect on the value of alternative models, such as cohousing.

The popularity of cohousing is slowly on the rise in Aotearoa, but it's still a relatively new idea. While residents recently moved into Toiora in Dunedin and Cohaus in Auckland, the number of cohousing communities that have completed construction is few and far between. ➤