

Spotlight on Co-operatives

Co-operatives WA has welcomed the announcement by Innovation Minister Senator Kim Carr, that federal government Innovation Australia Linkage Grant funding of \$258,000 has been approved for its research partnership with the UWA Business School.

“As the peak industry body, Co-operatives WA has been working with Prof Tim Mazzarol of UWA Business School on lifting awareness and understanding of the co-operative business model and the Linkage Grant will allow that work to go to a new level,” said Co-operatives WA chairman Chris Enright.

“The soon to be proclaimed Western Australian Co-operatives Act will create opportunities and challenges for the co-operative sector and this study will lay the ground-work for WA to become the centre for excellence in co-operative business formation, management and education,” according to Mr Enright.

The study will bring together, for the first time in Australia, input from university business management, finance, accounting, marketing and sectorial faculties with that of Co-operatives WA. Capricorn Society, Co-operative Bulk Handling Ltd and Ravensdown Fertiliser Co-operative Ltd, three leading members of Co-operatives WA, are also part of the study team providing both cash and extensive in-kind support for the 3 year project which will commence in July.

The research program titled - *Sustainable Cooperative Enterprise: An Investigation into the Factors Influencing the Sustainability and Competitiveness of Cooperative Enterprises*, will be administered by UWA and overseen by a joint UWA/industry management group. Research findings and up-date reports will be released progressively throughout the study. The study timing coincides with the lead up to Australia's involvement in the *United Nations' Year of Co-operatives 2012*, which will provide added focus on the importance of the sector around the globe.

“This research and education initiative will give the co-operative sector a timely shot in the arm and lead to greater recognition and use of the highly adaptable co-operative business model which has the potential to contribute even more to economic growth and stability in Australia than it does currently,” concluded Chris Enright.

Authorised and released by Chris Enright
For follow-up comment telephone 0427 541 046
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Background reference: http://www.arc.gov.au/ncgp/lp/LP10_rd2_orglist.htm

About Co-operatives WA

Vision

To be the centre of excellence and leading authority on the co-operative movement in Australia

Purpose

1. Represent the interest of members
2. Promote co-operative vision and values and the co-operative business model.
3. Promote the co-operative sector's significant contribution to the economy and the community.
4. Support the formation and development of co-operatives

