



8 May 2017

Victorian Government Budget advances self-determination

Aboriginal Housing Victoria has welcomed commitments by the Andrews Government in the *Victorian Budget 2017/18* to advance self-determination for Aboriginal people and implement the Family Violence Royal Commission findings.

Comments from Tim Chatfield, Chair of Aboriginal Housing Victoria:

“AHV is heartened by the commitment of \$1.9 billion to fulfil the promise of implementing the Family Violence Royal Commission findings. Progress in reducing disadvantage for Aboriginal people in Victoria is unlikely to be achieved until the significantly higher rate of family violence in Aboriginal communities in Victoria is reduced. The Budget includes \$33.5 million that will go to meeting the needs of Aboriginal victims and survivors of family violence and working to prevent it from happening in the first place.

“The announcement of \$68 million to advance self-determination is also very welcome.

“The investment of \$28.5 million in treaty negotiations and a representative body provides a necessary and welcome framework to advance self-determination.

“Victorian Government support in the Budget for a new infrastructure fund, for removing first mortgages and for community and cultural heritage will also make a difference in many Aboriginal communities in Victoria.

“AHV welcomes \$5.4 million to help progress the removal of first mortgages from Aboriginal organisation-owned properties.

“AHV will benefit directly with the lifting of the first mortgage on AHV’s head office, *Narrandjeri House*.

“This follows the landmark announcement in 2016 to transfer ownership to Aboriginal Housing Victoria of over 1400 properties, previously managed by AHV on behalf of the Government.

“As a result of the genuine commitment of this Government to support self-determination for Aboriginal Victorians AHV has the autonomy to advance our economic and social interests. We are better able to innovate and ultimately improve the standard of housing and quality of life for our tenants.”

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