



Communique

Aboriginal Housing Victoria Board Meeting

Wednesday 15 May 2019

The Board of Directors of Aboriginal Housing Victoria (AHV) held their third Board meeting for the calendar year on Wednesday 15 May 2019 in Geelong.

Housing and Homelessness Summit

The Board noted the success of the Housing and Homelessness Summit held on 5 April 2019. Over 130 participants, including Aboriginal community members, stakeholders and government representatives all made a significant and positive contribution to discussions on the various session topics.

The day started with a presentation by Jack Charles, followed by a community panel that included Aunty Pat Ockwell, Aunty Di Kerr, Aunty Shirley Firebrace and Sharyn Lovett. The panel discussed their personal housing and homelessness experiences and the current obstacles that Aboriginal Victorians continue to face. This set the scene for the day.

A significant amount of information and ideas were shared at the forum, and AHV staff are now busy writing up this information so that it can inform the development of the Aboriginal Housing and Homelessness Framework.

The Summit attracted media interest, including a substantial segment on the SBS news service on the evening of 5 April 2019. <https://www.sbs.com.au/news/leaders-call-for-action-to-tackle-victoria-s-rising-indigenous-homeless-numbers>

Associate Board Directors

The Board approved AHV's participation in the Observership Program in 2020, as a means of recruiting Aboriginal Associate Directors to participate on the AHV Board.

The Observership Program was established in Sydney in 2014, and has been operating in Melbourne since 2017. During this period, over 380 observers have participated in the Program, observing on the boards of over 160 not for profit organisations. The Program places motivated people aged 25-40 on non-profit boards for a 12-month period.

Through the Program, AHV will seek to select an Aboriginal observer who will act as an Associate Director participating on the AHV Board, but without voting rights. During the 12-month program, the observer will participate in a number of training and development opportunities, to assist them to obtain the experience and capabilities required to become a future Board member, either with AHV or another organisation.

The 2020 Observership Program starts in February. Applications open on 22 July 2019 and close on 18 August 2019. The number of Aboriginal participants in the Program has increased over the last couple of years but demand for Aboriginal observers is growing from both Aboriginal community

controlled organisations, and mainstream not for profits. Program organisers are therefore keen to attract more applications from young Aboriginal people looking to develop their Board participation skills.

If you are potentially interested in the Observership Program, or know someone who might be, further information is available at: www.observership.com.au

Tenant Satisfaction Survey

The Board noted that the Tenant Satisfaction survey has now closed. Unfortunately, we were unable to reach the benchmark response rate of 25% this year. However, the number of surveys received will still be sufficient to provide important feedback from AHV tenants on their level of satisfaction with our services.

Thank you to all tenants who took the time to complete the survey.

Quarterly reporting

The Board received quarterly reports on organisational performance and progress against the business plan and the dashboard report. The Board noted actions underway to continue to improve performance.