



Communique

Aboriginal Housing Victoria Board Meeting

Thursday 28 March, 2019

The Board of Directors of Aboriginal Housing Victoria (AHV) held their second Board meeting for the calendar year on Thursday 21 February, 2019 in Melbourne.

Victorian Housing Register

The Board noted that AHV was the first Housing Association to complete the application merge process, and the transition to the VHR is now complete. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and AHV staff successfully assessed all applications on our waitlist, and merged former AHV applications on to the VHR.

All merged applicants have received a letter from the VHR, detailing their merged application details.

All AHV allocations are now being made through the VHR. The Victorian Government's VHR reforms are designed to give social housing applicants, including Aboriginal applicants, greater choice in their future housing options.

If you are an applicant for AHV housing, or have applied to transfer from your current AHV property, and you have not received a letter confirming that your application has been included on the VHR, please contact our **Client Services Team** on **9403 2100**.

White Ribbon accreditation

AHV was one of the first Aboriginal organisations to be accredited as a White Ribbon Australia Workplace in 2016, taking active steps to stop violence against women. The Board approved the proposal to undertake a re-accreditation process. AHV will be working with White Ribbon Australia over the next 12 months as we work through the accreditation process.

Aboriginal HomesVic pilot

The Board noted that the following milestones have been achieved in the Aboriginal HomesVic pilot:

- the first successful settlement of a home for an Aboriginal participant in the pilot will occur in May 2019;
- 40 expressions of interest have been received from the Aboriginal community since promotion of the pilot program began in February 2019;
- promotional materials have been widely circulated within the Aboriginal community;
- The project group is developing a good shared understanding of the lived experience and reality of Aboriginal Victorians seeking to achieve home ownership, including barriers and challenges;
- many individuals have expressed an aspiration towards home ownership, resulting in several prospective applicants implementing a savings plan to establish the 5 percent deposit required for program participation.

More information about HomesVic for Aboriginal Victorians is available via our webpage:

<http://ahvic.org.au/communications-and-resources/homesvic-for-aboriginal-victorians>

Organisational Development Plan

The Board approved the AHV 2019 Organisational Development Plan, which aims to increase AHV's Aboriginal workforce, and provide training and support for Aboriginal staff so that they can develop their skills and successfully apply for future opportunities for promotion.