



Communique

Aboriginal Housing Victoria Board Meeting

Thursday, 7 December 2017

The Board of Directors of Aboriginal Housing Victoria (AHV) held their tenth Board meeting for the calendar year on Thursday 7 December, 2017 in Melbourne.

Rent arrears policy and processes

A range of immediate and medium term processes and actions were presented to the Board, to more effectively manage AHV rental arrears on an ongoing basis. The actions aim to effectively manage existing cases, while taking early intervention to minimise the number of new arrears cases.

Actions include improved support for tenants during the Christmas period, to help tenants to maintain their rent payments. Christmas can be a financially stressful and difficult time for low-income tenants and their families. Tenants will be given advice on services that may be available to assist them to maintain their rent payments, while managing the additional costs that arise during this period.

AHV is also focusing on tenants with longstanding rental arrears, and will investigate ways to assist them to get back on track with their rental payments, and to make genuine progress in reducing arrears debts.

Transitional housing project

The Board noted that AHV has been working in partnership with Corrections Victoria, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service (VALS) to develop a much needed transitional housing project for Aboriginal women and men, following release from custody. The construction of the women's project is proceeding first. Consultants have been engaged to develop a culturally safe design, informed by Aboriginal men and women currently in prison, and the Wurundjeri Tribal Council.

AHV will be responsible for tenancy and property management of the development, with VALS providing support to the residents, to assist them to make a successful transition back to the community, and into long term housing.

Other new developments

As part of AHV's development program, the Board noted that tendering processes were nearing completion for the construction of 3 separate developments. The projects will result in an additional 7 AHV housing units (6 x two-bedroom units and 1 x three bedroom unit).

Christmas office closure

The Board approved the closure of AHV offices between Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Offices will re-open on 2 January 2018. AHV's after-hours emergency maintenance service will be available during the office closure period.

On behalf of the AHV Board, the Chairperson, Tim Chatfield wished all AHV tenants, staff and their families a safe and happy Christmas and New Year.