



Communique

Aboriginal Housing Victoria Board Meeting

Thursday 20 October 2022

The Board of Directors of Aboriginal Housing Victoria (AHV) held their thirteenth Board meeting for the calendar year on Thursday 20 October 2022, via videoconference.

Out of session meeting

The AHV Board held an out of session meeting on 3 October 2022, to consider nominations for two positions on the Board, that will become vacant at the 2022 Annual General Meeting (AGM) following the termination of consecutive terms for two long-standing Board Directors. The Board also approved the Annual Audited Accounts.

The Aboriginal Rapid Housing Response Program (ARHRP), is under some cost pressures due to variations to works. The Board therefore approved a budget transfer from the ARHRP Contingency Budget to the ARHRP Management and Administration Budget.

Annual Reporting

The content of the draft 2021-22 AHV Annual Report was approved by the Board. Final design and production work is now progress, so that the final version will be available for the AGM on 3 November 2022.

The Annual Report will be sent to AHV's stakeholder email list (600+ contacts), which includes Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs), government, and the community housing sector. It will also be shared on social media to reach a broader audience.

AHV renters will receive a shorter, more accessible overview of the Annual Report, which does not include Financials. Renters will be advised that the full report is available online.

As part of AHV's annual compliance reporting to the Housing Registrar, we are required to submit a report on our performance against the Housing Registrar's performance standards. The 2021-22 report was also presented to the Board and approved for submission to the Housing Registrar. The report is due by 31 October 2022.

Removal of Caveats from Indigenous grant-funded properties

AHV owns 4 properties that were subject to a Commonwealth government funding arrangement. The Commonwealth controlled the basis on which the properties were held by AHV and then the use and application of any sale proceeds.

The Board approved the proposal for AHV to apply to the Commonwealth government to have these caveats removed. Removal of caveats will release some funds currently held in trust. Once released, these funds will be allocated to AHV's Growth Fund Reserve, to assist in future acquisition of housing for Aboriginal Victorians.

Improving Homelessness Services and Outcomes Project (Blueprint for an Aboriginal Specific Homelessness System)

The Blueprint for an Aboriginal-specific Homelessness system in Victoria was officially launched at the Aboriginal Housing and Homelessness Summit 2022 in August 2022.

A funding submission has now been developed to undertake work for the establishment of a Stewardship model to oversee the implementation of the first phase of the blueprint.

The first phase includes the design and implementation of Aboriginal-specific access points that will be supported by a multi-disciplinary team to address the needs of Aboriginal people accessing the homelessness system.

Community Housing Sector Development Fund

AHV has prepared two submission for the Community Housing Sector Development Fund:

- Local Government Partnership Project; and
- Supporting Aboriginal Registration.

The Aboriginal Housing and Homelessness Forum (AHHF) supports the proposals. The AHHF membership includes all ACCOs and Traditional Owner Groups who have an interest in housing. This project will benefit all interested Aboriginal groups and their communities.

Bringing Aboriginal community housing within the regulated housing system, either directly through registration or indirectly through partnerships, is an important pathway to building a capable and competent Aboriginal community housing sector. It provides opportunities to build scale and capability through access to capital grant funding, management transfers and other opportunities from Government.

Victorian Floods response

AHV is reaching out to our renters in flood affected communities.

Our AHV Housing Call Centre Number is 1800 248 842. Please call this number to talk to us about any problems you might be having as an AHV renter, because of the flood. We will do our best to help.

- If you need help or assistance with temporary accommodation and clean up you can call the **Flood Recovery Hotline - Call 1800 560 760** The hotline is open from 7.30am - 7.30pm every day.
- Emergency payments are available from the Victorian Government for people whose homes are damaged, destroyed or uninhabitable. They are also for people who have evacuated and can't get back to their homes because of the flood. It's a one off payment for food, shelter, medication and accommodation. To apply for an Emergency relief assistance

payment, go to this website: <https://emergencypayments.dffh.vic.gov.au/> and [complete the online application form](#)

- Rumbalara is working with Aboriginal staff from the Victorian Government to help community affected by the floods, <https://rumbalara.org.au/> Their number is 5820 0000
- If you are feeling anxious or stressed and would like to yarn about it, you can call **13YARN**. **Their number is 13 92 76**. Their staff are all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders. More information on 13YARN can be found here: <https://www.13yarn.org.au/>
- Kids Helpline 1800 55 1800 or Lifeline 13 11 14 <https://www.lifeline.org.au/> are also available if you'd like someone to talk to about how you are feeling.
- If you are in a flood affected area and need to talk to Centrelink, you can get in touch with them at the Recovery Hubs and Centres. Jump on this link to find out where:
<https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/where-to-find-us-if-youve-been-affected-natural-disaster?>
- Centrelink is also providing financial assistance for eligible households. Find out more here:
<https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/victorian-floods-october-2022>

Stay safe and please get in touch with us if you need assistance. We will do our best to help.