



AHV Board Communique

Aboriginal Housing Victoria Board Meeting

Thursday 7 December 2023

The Board of Directors of Aboriginal Housing Victoria (AHV) held their seventeenth Board meeting for the calendar year on Thursday 7 December 2023.

Out of session Board meeting

The AHV Board met out of session on Friday 24 November 2023, to consider and approve AHV's submission for funding to the Victorian Government's *Housing for Aboriginal Victorians Round 5* initiative. The significant submission was uploaded to the Homes Victoria tender portal on 28 November 2023, just prior to the due date.

If fully funded, AHV's proposal will provide a much needed boost to housing opportunities for Aboriginal Victorians in metropolitan and regional locations.

Christmas Appeal

Over the last few months, many AHV staff have been working hard to coordinate the delivery of presents and hampers for the AHV community, as part of our 2023 Christmas Appeal. As a result, nearly 400 Elders will receive Christmas hampers and over 700 children and teenagers living in AHV properties Victoria will receive gifts. These gifts were able to be purchased thanks to the generosity of our supporters including: Disney, Sensational Kids, Hardie Grant, Children's Publishing, Lush Cosmetics, Essendon Football Club, North Melbourne Football Club, Coles, Aesop, CleverPatch, Koh Living and Vocus Group. Also, many thanks to Cera Stribley Architecture, who generously provided us with the additional space required to prepare the Elders' hampers. In total, donations to the value of \$44,000 were received.

Christmas Wishes

The Board wishes all members of the AHV Community a very happy Christmas and a safe and healthy New Year. The Board hopes that all AHV staff and renters will have an opportunity to spend precious time with their families and other loved ones over the Christmas holiday period.

During the last year we continued to upgrade, expand, and diversify our housing stock, including the completion of our first medium density housing development. On behalf of the Victorian Aboriginal community, AHV's now owns and manages over 1,660 housing units; an increase of around 90 units since this time last year.

The wellbeing of our renters continued to be at the forefront of everything we do. During 2022-23, our Housing Services and Wellbeing teams provided support for new renters to establish their

homes and referred renters to AHV programs, which included 125 referrals to the Life Skills and Life Coaching programs.

We continued to strengthen our advocacy at local, state, and federal levels. We travelled to Canberra to speak with Ministers and politicians to push for a standalone national Aboriginal housing and homelessness plan. We amplified the call for 10% of federal government funding for affordable housing initiatives to be allocated to Aboriginal people, given the high rates of homelessness and insecure housing that too many of our Community continue to experience.

AHV offices will be closed from Friday 22 December 2023 and will re-open on Tuesday 2 January 2024. Our after-hours emergency maintenance service will be operating throughout this period, so any AHV renter who requires emergency repairs during the Christmas New Year period, can contact the AHV, and their call will be re-directed to the after-hours service:

- Free call: 1800 248 842 (press 1)
- Phone: (03) 9403 2100 (press 1)