



Communique

Aboriginal Housing Victoria Board Meeting

Thursday 9 November 2023

The Board of Directors of Aboriginal Housing Victoria (AHV) held their fifteenth Board meeting for the calendar year on Thursday 9 November 2023, via videoconference.

Annual General Meeting and appointments to the Board

The AHV Board held its Annual General Meeting for 2023 on 2 November 2023.

This was the forty-third AGM held by AHV, and the former Aboriginal Housing Board Victoria. It was the final AGM for the AHV Chairperson Tim Chatfield, after over 2 decades of dedicated service to AHV. Tim confirmed his deep gratitude for the opportunity to be part of AHV's journey of growth and Self-determination.

Tim noted some of the important milestones that he has had the honour to oversee as AHV Chair: our registration as a housing provider and later a housing association; transfer of title of properties previously owned by the Director of Housing and managed by AHV; and lead agency for the development and implementation of Victoria's Housing and Homelessness policy framework, *Mana-na woorn-tyeen maar-takoort*- Every Aboriginal Person has a Home. He acknowledged the shared commitment of AHV, the Aboriginal Housing and Homelessness Forum, and the Victorian Government to work together to progress implementation of the *Mana-na woorn-tyeen maar-takoort* recommendations. Tim noted that the founding Elders of the Aboriginal Housing Board of Victoria would definitively approve of this collaborative approach to improving housing outcomes for our people.

On behalf of the AHV Board, Daphne Yarram thanked Tim for his constant and long standing commitment to the organisation. She acknowledged Tim's passionate leadership and support, including his capacity to guide AHV through difficult and challenging times. Daphne also recognised Tim's ability to build and maintain respectful relationships and noted that his knowledge and wisdom have provided a strong foundation on which AHV can continue to grow and progress. On behalf of the AHV Board, Staff and Community, Daphne wished Tim much joy, good health, and wellbeing for the future.

Bevan Mailman was elected for his third and final consecutive term as AHV Director and Member. The Board also welcomed a new Director to the Board, Duean White. Duean already has a strong connection to AHV, having been appointed as an Associate Director for a 2-year term from 2020 to 2021, and participating on AHV's Governance Committee as an expert adviser since 2022.

Daphne Yarram was elected as the new AHV Chair, at today's Board meeting.

Annual Report

The 2022-23 Annual Report was presented at the AGM. The Annual Report will be sent to AHV's stakeholder email list (600+ contacts), which includes Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations, government, and the community housing sector. It will also be shared on social media to reach a broader audience.

AHV renters will receive a summary of the Annual Report, without detailed financial reporting, with the end of year *Mia Mia* newsletter. Renters will be advised that the full report is available online.

Review of AHV's Strategic Plan

A review of AHV's Strategic Plan commenced in 2022-23, recognising that significant changes in the social and affordable housing environment at a national and state level have occurred since the current Plan was developed. Also, many of the key objectives of the existing Strategic Plan have been met. The Board considered the draft revised AHV Strategic Plan at today's meeting.

The final product will be a concise and cohesive draft AHV Strategic Plan, for broader consultation with AHV's renters and other community stakeholders. Renter and community consultation on the draft Strategic Plan will proceed in 2024.

Quarterly reporting

As part of AHV's reporting requirements to the Board, the following performance reports were presented to the Board for the first quarter of 2023-24:

- Dashboard report on key performance data; and
- progress of Business Plan actions.

AHV leave policy

The Board approved a minor change to the AHV Staff Leave policy to confirm the standard practice of staff leave to cover the business days between the Christmas/New Year public holidays, when AHV offices are closed. As in previous years, systems will be in place to manage any emergency tenancy management issues that may arise while the office is closed. Relevant staff will be on-call to respond to urgent issues and maintenance requests will be diverted to the after-hours service.

Trial of support program for AHV renters seeking to re-enter employment or education/training

The AHV Board recognises that re-entry into the workforce, or accessing further education and training can be difficult for AHV renters, given costs associated with enrolment in training, and preparation for employment.

The Board has therefore approved a trial scholarship program to provide some financial support to renters to help them to access employment and education. More details on how to apply for support will be available in the *Mia Mia* newsletter. AHV staff including Housing Officers, and the Wellbeing Team will also promote the trial program, along with the VAEAI regional networks.