



Communique

Aboriginal Housing Victoria Board Meetings

Thursday 2 December and Wednesday 22 December 2021

The Board of Directors of Aboriginal Housing Victoria (AHV) held their seventeenth and eighteenth Board meetings for the calendar year on Thursday 2 December 2021 and Wednesday 22 December 2021 (out of session), via videoconference.

Improving Homelessness Services and Outcomes Project

The project commenced in October 2021, following awarding of the consultancy to KPMG. It is an important piece of work that aims to redesign the Aboriginal homelessness service system, so that is more accessible to Aboriginal people, and provides improved pathways out of homelessness to long-term, sustainable housing outcomes.

Three online workshops bringing together Aboriginal leaders and mainstream service providers took place in early November. The purpose of these workshops was to shape the options for an Aboriginal-focused homelessness system in Victoria. Key topics included:

- early intervention and common assessment for Aboriginal people at risk of homelessness;
- open access points to the Aboriginal specific and mainstream systems;
- coordination for service linkage, housing brokerage and case management;
- immediate crisis and transitional housing pathways; and
- exit processes to long term housing.

Fifteen one-on-one interviews have also shaped the options in the report and have been an important part of the stakeholder consultation process.

The final report will be submitted in late January 2022. Project milestones are on track or already completed to a high standard, and the report looks set to challenge the status quo.

Aboriginal Home Connect Program

The second direct mail campaign to over 3,200 DFFH (public housing) Aboriginal renters was completed during November 2021. The program received over 130 enquiries and registered 98 new clients. The majority of clients have complex, high needs, with multiple concerns about their lives. The top three concerns were:

- Social isolation due to the pandemic (55%),
- Food security (40%), and
- Housing (16%).

For more information on the program, please go to:

<https://ahvic.org.au/aboriginal-community-home-connect-program>

Christmas Wishes

The Board wishes all members of the AHV Community a very happy Christmas and a safe and healthy New Year.

We had hoped that during 2020-21, we may have put the worst of the pandemic behind us, but unfortunately the Delta strain has forced us to continue to be physically separated from family, friends, work colleagues, Country and our Mob. With the easing of COVID-19 restrictions, 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.

2022 will be another significant year for AHV and the Aboriginal community housing sector, as we work together to deliver a range of development projects and services, with funding from the Victorian Government's Big Housing Build. The Board anticipates there will be further challenges to work through in the coming year, but the AHV Board and Staff remain strongly committed to taking every opportunity to make some real progress on improving housing outcomes for Aboriginal Victorians.