



Communique

Aboriginal Housing Victoria Board Meeting

Thursday 19 August 2021

The Board of Directors of Aboriginal Housing Victoria (AHV) held their eleventh Board meeting for the calendar year on Thursday 19 August 2021, via videoconference.

End of year reporting

As part of AHV's reporting requirements to the Housing Registrar, AHV is required to submit the following reports to the Housing Registrar:

- Annual Business Plan
- Key Performance Measures Report; and
- Performance against Annual Business Plan.

The reports have all been approved by the Board, and will now be submitted to the Housing Registrar.

The Business Plan identifies AHV's key priority areas. This year, our focus is on further implementation of *Mana-na woorn-tyeen maar-takoort* -Every Aboriginal Person Has A Home (Victorian Aboriginal Housing and Homelessness Framework), and the delivery of development and upgrade projects under the Government's *Big Housing Build* programs. These programs will improve and grow AHV's portfolio and Aboriginal social housing more broadly, in partnership with Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations.

Aboriginal Rapid Housing Response Program

The implementation of the Aboriginal Rapid Housing Response Program (ARHRP), which is delivering maintenance and upgrades to Aboriginal community owned properties across Victoria, is progressing well. At today's meeting, the Board approved the engagement of external project managers for 2 of the ARHRP works programs.

Meeting with Ben Rimmer, CEO Homes Victoria

The key agenda item for today's Board meeting was the open and positive discussion with Ben Rimmer, CEO of Homes Victoria. Home Victoria is the arm of the Department of Housing formed in November 2020 to manage the \$5.6bn Big Housing Build, and more than \$26 billion in state government housing assets that currently provide social housing for more than 116,000 Victorians.

During the meeting, the AHV Board Directors stressed that the \$5.3b *Big Housing Build* package provides an opportunity to substantially progress the objective of the Victorian Aboriginal Housing and Homelessness Framework objective that *Every Aboriginal person has a home*, and to the goals of:

- Secure housing as a means of improving life outcomes;
- Building housing supply to meet the needs of a growing Aboriginal population;

- Opening doors to Aboriginal home ownership and private rental; and
- A capable system that delivers Aboriginal housing needs.

AHV COVID-19 Update

We understand that many people are experiencing higher levels of stress and hardship as a result of the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, which finds those of us in Melbourne in hard lockdown again. To keep our community safe, government and community agencies are adopting a partnership approach to the crisis.

These are the 3 points of contact we strongly recommend for access to health updates and services:

- Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) coronavirus updates. This should be your first point of reference for government-issued updates related to the outbreak. Visit <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus> or call 1800 675 398 (available 24/7). Please leave 000 (triple zero) for emergencies only.
- Victorian Aboriginal Health Service (VAHS): VAHS is available for a range of services, including if you are suffering from stress or anxiety related to the outbreak. You can follow them on Facebook page for the latest updates <https://www.facebook.com/victorianaboriginalhealthservice/> or give them a call on (03) 9403 3300.
- Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (VACCHO): please visit their website to learn more about VACCHO's response: <https://www.vaccho.org.au/about-us/coronavirus/>

Keep strong and stay connected. If you need support, there is support out there:

- Victorian Aboriginal Health Service **03 9403 3300**
- Djirra Aboriginal Women's well-being helpline **1800 105 303**
- Dardi Munwurro Aboriginal men's well-being helpline **1800 435 799**
- Safe Steps family violence support **1800 015 188**
- Beyond Blue **1300 22 46 36**
- Lifeline **131 114**
- Kids Helpline **1800 551 800**
- In a medical emergency call **000**