



Communique

Aboriginal Housing Victoria Board Meeting

Thursday 28 January 2021

The Board of Directors of Aboriginal Housing Victoria (AHV) held their first Board meeting for the calendar year on Thursday 28 January 2021, via videoconference.

Aboriginal Rapid Housing Response Program

The Board noted that the Asset Committee met on 21 January 2021 to further discuss planning arrangements for the \$35m Aboriginal Rapid Housing Response program (ARHRP). The External and Internal Project Managers have now commenced, so progress on implementation of the program can now proceed.

Victorian Government's *Big Housing Build* initiatives

AHV has submitted a Principles document to the Victorian Government (HomesVic), confirming that their program requirements need to be reviewed, to ensure Aboriginal organisations (ACCOs and Traditional owners) are eligible to participate in *Big Housing Build* initiatives. This will be critical if the government is to achieve its 10% target for Aboriginal housing.

As Aboriginal organisations generally operate very small housing programs, their opportunity to provide financial co-contributions is minimal. However, this should not be a barrier to participation.

Housing requirements of the Aboriginal community also need to be considered. Medium density and detached dwellings tend to be preferred options for community members. These forms of housing are generally more costly to construct on a per unit basis, than high-density developments.

AHV will continue to advocate on these issues, on behalf of the Aboriginal communities and community organisations.

Mid-term review of AHV's Strategic Plan

The Board approved the proposed timing and process for a mid-term review of AHV's Strategic Plan to be scheduled in August 2021. The review will occur over two single working days, 2-4 weeks apart to allow for revised papers and information requests arising from the workshop on day 1.

A panel of experts from government, the Aboriginal community sector and the community housing sector will be invited to discuss, debate and consider the political and reform environment and emerging issues and trends, and the implications for Aboriginal housing and homelessness.

Property condition surveys

The Board has approved the engagement of contractor to conduct Property Condition Reports on all AHV properties. Tenants will receive more information on the program when the contract has been finalised and the proposed roll-out of the program has been finalised.

Tenant Satisfaction surveys

As part of AHV's registration compliance requirements, we are required to undertake a tenant satisfaction survey every 2 years. The previous survey was conducted in 2019.

Delivery of the survey report to the Housing Registrar is required by 31 August 2021, so the survey must be prepared and delivered in early 2021, to allow sufficient time for analysis of results.

The 2015, 2017 and 2019 surveys were all conducted by CHIA NSW (formerly the NSW Federation of Housing Associations) on behalf of AHV, which enabled impartial and independent data collection and comparative analysis from previous years. AHV has again contracted CHIA NSW to conduct the survey.

The CHIA NSW survey has been developed on the basis of extensive consultation with the community housing sector.

The survey will be sent to AHV tenants in early February 2021, and further information will be included in the February *Mia Mia* newsletter. If tenants have any queries or concerns in relation to the survey, they should contact their Housing Officer for information or assistance, or contact AHV on:

Free Call: 1800 248 842 or

Email: clientservices@ahvic.org.au