



ABORIGINAL HOUSING VICTORIA

MIA MIA Tenant Newsletter

Edition 1 - 2023

Welcome to the first edition of Mia Mia for 2023 and what a way to kick off the New Year as we showcase in this edition:

- Formal partnership with Darebin City Council
- Introducing the Life Coach Team
- Home ownership opportunities
- Completion of 195 Albert St Reservoir
- Update on the Home upgrades program and;
- Job opportunities within AHV

Providing more opportunities for our renters to participate, receive additional support, growth of Aboriginal housing and a partnership that puts renter's front and center. We look forward to sharing our joint success stories with you throughout the year.



AHV Darebin Council Moratorium of Understanding (MOU)

In November 2022, AHV and the Darebin City Council signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The MOU serves as an agreement between AHV and the Council to formalise a working relationship to achieve mutual objectives. Principally, the goal is to improve the availability of social housing in Darebin and to support the housing and wellbeing needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the Darebin community.

The three priority focus areas as set up under the Memorandum of Understanding partnership agreement are:

- 1. Work in partnership to increase Aboriginal Housing Victoria renter's wellbeing, community participation and inclusion in Council's services and programs**
- 2. Explore options to provide AHV with exemptions or rebates for rates**
- 3. Explore ways to increase the availability of housing stock in Darebin for the Aboriginal community**

The first key milestone of the MOU will be the introduction of a rates exemption for all AHV properties in Darebin City Council area, a huge achievement for both parties. AHV hopes to emulate this MOU arrangement with all other City Councils across the state.



Meet the Life Coaching team

The Wellbeing Team at Aboriginal Housing Victoria is made up of (from right) Norbert Williams, Sue D'Amico, Norma Bamblett, Maylene Slater-Burns and Trudi Smith. We are here to support you through two free programs that Aboriginal Housing Victoria offer.



Life Skills

The Life Skills program is a free service offered by Aboriginal Housing Victoria. Life skills can help you with support for emergency assistance, food assistance as well as tips and advice to support your tenancy. The Life Coaching team love to have a yarn so please call us if you need any support.

Life Coaching

We have 3 Life Coaches at Aboriginal Housing Victoria. The Life Coaching program is a culturally safe coaching program assisting you to achieve your individual and household goals and dreams. You may want to create a savings plan, gain employment or enrol in study. A life coach will meet with you regularly to support you in identifying and working towards your aspirations. Together with your life coach you will explore ways to achieve your goals. We believe that your goals are important!

We look forward to keeping in touch with you through these 2 deadly programs.

Contact us: Free Call 1800 248 842 or E mail wellbeing@ahvic.org.au

** These programs are open to AHV renters over the age of 16 and are in the Norther and Western Metropolitan regions, Ballarat and Great Geelong.

Homeownership opportunity - Victorian Homebuyer Fund VHF

Have you heard about the Victorian Homebuyer Fund? It could be the key to buying your own home sooner.

The Victorian Homebuyer Fund (VHF) helps Victorians own their own home by reducing the size of the deposit and loan needed to purchase a suitable property. It also means lower mortgage costs and no Lenders Mortgage Insurance.



How does the VHF work?

The VHF is a shared equity program. For eligible Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Victorians, the Victorian Government will contribute up to 35% of participants' purchase price in exchange for an equivalent share in the property. The Government does not charge interest or rent on this investment, but does share in any capital gains or losses as the home's value rises or falls.

Participants will only need to pay a minimum 3.5% deposit and cover acquisition costs, such as stamp duty and conveyancing cost, to buy their own home. The remaining amount required to purchase the property is secured through a home loan from one of the VHF's partner lenders: Indigenous Business Australia, Bendigo Bank, Bank Australia and Commonwealth Bank.

Eligibility and lending criteria apply. Restrictions and other obligations apply after purchase

Are you interested in attending a workshop to discuss the VHF more?

AHV is organizing a series of homeownership info sessions to have a yarn about the VHF and what help is around for you to buy your own home. There is an upcoming session in Bendigo being hosted with Dja Dja Wurrung Traditional Owner Corporation on February 13th, stay tuned for more information closer to the date!

If you want to check your eligibility and learn more about the scheme visit the VHF website here <http://www.vic.gov.au/homebuyer>

Or you can send us an email at homebuyer@ahvic.org.au and call our Fitzroy office directly on 1800 248 842

Home Upgrade Program in Full Swing

The Aboriginal Rapid Housing Response Program (ARHRP) is well underway. AHV is one of the 19 Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations, Traditional Owner groups and Aboriginal Trusts which were successful in a collective bid for ARHRP funding in 2020. Not all properties will receive an upgrade, with properties prioritised based on completion of property condition assessments, as well as those identified as most in need of work.

Outcomes of the project have included:

- Installation of 160 ceiling fans
- 1751 properties (9 ACCOs) participated in cyclical maintenance, checking safety of heaters
- Energy efficiency installation of split systems, 686 hot water and 686 solar panels assisting renters in lowering the cost of living
- Property upgrades (kitchen, bathroom, painting, flooring and roof restoration)

If you have any queries please speak to your Housing Officer or call 1800 248 842. Updates are also available on our website.

**KITCHEN
BEFORE**



AFTER



**DINING ROOM
BEFORE**



AFTER



**BATHROOM
BEFORE**



AFTER



New AHV development in Northern Metro Melbourne Complete

The development is 3 stories high with 14 apartments. These 14 designed apartments have large windows and sliding doors providing natural light and ventilation. The apartments consist of generous size balconies and views out to the Dandenong's and CBD.

The apartments also feature Aboriginal art, creating a fun and welcoming environment for renters to call home.



FIND YOUR LOCAL REGIONAL HOUSING OFFICE

<p>Ballarat</p> <p>706 Sturt Street Ballarat Central VIC 3350</p> <p>Mailing address: PO Box 1186 Bakery Hill VIC 3354</p> <p>Tel: (03) 5331 6518 Fax: (03) 5338 8829</p>	<p>Bairnsdale</p> <p>306 Main Road, Bairnsdale VIC 3875</p> <p>Tel: (03) 5152 8020 Fax: (03) 5152 8080</p>	<p>Bendigo</p> <p>Synergize Hub 43 Williamson Street, Bendigo VIC 3550</p> <p>Mailing address: PO Box 248 Bendigo VIC 3552</p> <p>Tel: via head office: 1800 248 842 Fax: via head office (03) 9403 2122</p>
<p>Mildura</p> <p>The Deakin Business Centre Corner Eighth Street & Lemon Avenue, Mildura VIC 3502</p> <p>Tel: via head office: 1800 248 842</p>	<p>Morwell</p> <p>227 Princes Drive, Morwell VIC 3840</p> <p>Mailing address: PO Box 15 Morwell VIC 3840</p> <p>Tel: (03) 5128 0774 Fax:(03) 5120 2020</p>	<p>Shepparton</p> <p>32 Roe Street, Shepparton VIC 3630</p> <p>PO Box 1386, Shepparton VIC 3630</p> <p>Tel: (03) 5821 8720 Fax: (03) 5821 8718</p>

Our head office at Narrandjeri House in North Fitzroy is currently closed, with staff working remotely. For enquiries:

Free call: 1800 248 842

For all housing/client enquiries: clientservices@ahvic.org.au

For maintenance requests: maintenance@ahvic.org.au

Visit our website www.ahvic.org.au Follow us on Facebook and Instagram [@AboriginalHousingVictoria](https://www.instagram.com/AboriginalHousingVictoria)

Phone  Free call **1800 248 842**  Phone **(03) 9403 2100**

Email  clientservices@ahvic.org.au  maintenance@ahvic.org.au  rentreview@ahvic.org.au

Aboriginal Housing Victoria is a not-for-profit registered Housing Association ABN 38 006 210 546

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