



ABORIGINAL HOUSING VICTORIA

MIA MIA Renter Newsletter

Edition 4 - 2021

CHRISTMAS TOY APPEAL GETS UNDERWAY

Our Christmas elves are busy sorting and packing donated gifts as part of our Christmas Toy Appeal for 2021.



Gifts are coming in from across the community.

This year we will once again be delivering gifts for hundreds of children across our tenancies, thanks to the generous support of our community.

It has been a particularly challenging year with the ongoing impacts of COVID-19 and we want to make sure our families are supported during what can be a challenging time for many.

Gifts will be packed into bags and

delivered to parents or guardians before Christmas.

If you would like support with a gift for your children, let us know by calling 1800 248 842, emailing wellbeing@ahvic.org.au or speaking with your Housing Officer. The details we will need are:

- Your name
- Address
- Phone number
- Age and gender of children in your household

Please let us know by the **end of November**, to ensure that we can deliver to your household before Christmas. Please also note that we can only deliver gifts for children in AHV's tenancies.

More information about the Toy Appeal is available on our website: www.ahvic.org.au

Help us promote the Toy Appeal in your community!

We have number of promotional materials including posters, flyers and social media images which can be downloaded from our website.



HEALTH SERVICE HITS THE ROAD WITH VACCINE VAN



Victorian Aboriginal Health Service (VAHS) has taken its vaccine outreach program into fifth gear with the launch of a new vaccination van.

VAHS is now able to offer community members the option of being vaccinated at home. This service is available for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and their families who are located in metropolitan Melbourne, and who would like to be vaccinated but are unable to make it into

one of the VAHS clinics because of mobility issues, disabilities, caring responsibilities or other reasons.

If you or someone you know would like to access VAHS Home Vaccination Service, please call 0468 583 424 for more information.

STAY FIRE SAFE IN THE HOME

There are many things we can do to reduce the risk of fire hazards. The kitchen is the most common place for a fire to occur in the home. To reduce the risk of fire-related danger:

- Check that the stove, cooktop, oven and other heat sources are turned off before leaving home or going to sleep.
- Never use water to extinguish an oil or grease fire.
- Keep items that could burn at least 1 metre away from cooking and heat sources.
- Keep stovetop, griller, oven, range hood and cooking area free from built-up grease and oil.

It is also important to have a home fire escape plan in the event of an emergency.

- Get down low, and stay out of the smoke.
- Alert people on the way out.
- If safe to do so, close doors as you exit.
- Get out and stay out.
- Meet at a safe place outside your home, e.g. letterbox or footpath
- Call 000 (triple zero) and when prompted ask for 'FIRE'.

A copy of Fire Rescue Victoria's *Home Fire Safety* booklet is available at www.frv.vic.gov.au/home-fire-safety-booklet



COSMETICS RETAILER EMPLOYS NEW HIRING APPROACH

Those looking for some Christmas casual work may wish to check out the Body Shop, which has adopted an innovative 'open-hiring' approach where applicants are asked three simple questions. Candidates are then selected in order of application date, with the earliest application selected first.

Following the online application process, the candidate is invited for an in-person discussion with the Store Manager.



Our More Than A Landlord team may be able to assist AHV renters who are interested in applying (depending on the location of the renter). To have a chat to our life coaches, give us a call on 1800 248 842 or email wellbeing@ahvic.org.au

Candidates are given a rundown on the job requirements, a history of the brand and overall job responsibilities. If the candidate is able to fulfil the requirements of the role, they secure the job.

More information on how to apply is available at www.thebodyshop.com

HOME UPGRADE PROGRAM CONTINUES ROLLOUT

With the easing of COVID-19 restrictions the Aboriginal Rapid Housing Response Program is heading back out on the road and resuming property conditions assessments on dwellings which have not already had one.

The property surveys are being conducted by our contractor SPM Assets and usually take around one hour. If you have not already had one at your home, SPM Assets will contact you further to notify you of the exact time and date of when the inspection will be completed.

Please ensure that an adult is home at the time of the inspection, to allow the SPM inspector in to do the survey.

Note: properties will only be eligible for upgrade works once they have been inspected by SPM Assets.

For more information give us a call on 1800 248 842 or speak to your Housing Officer.



Are your contact details up to date?

AHV or our program partners may need to contact you from time-to-time to organise things such as a property condition assessment or an upgrade for your home. Please ensure contact details such as your phone number are up-to-date by calling us (free-call) on 1800 248 842.

NEW PROGRAM TO MAKE HOME OWNERSHIP MORE AFFORDABLE

The Victorian Homebuyer Fund has been launched to help eligible buyers own their own home sooner. The program works by reducing the amount of deposit that a buyer needs to save for a home loan.

The Victorian Homebuyer Fund is an expansion of the HomesVic Shared Equity Initiative, with broader eligibility criteria. Under the new scheme, participants no longer need to be first home buyers. Participants can buy in a broader range of locations as well as have higher household incomes than compared to the earlier pilot.

The Victorian Homebuyer Fund is a shared equity scheme, meaning that a financial contribution from the Victorian Government to the purchase price is made in exchange for an equivalent share in the property.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander homebuyers are eligible to receive additional support, including up to 35% Victorian Government contribution and a potentially lower required deposit amount of 3.5%.

For more information and to find out if you're eligible, visit www.vic.gov.au/homebuyer



VICTORIAN HOMEBUYER FUND

It could be the key to owning your own home sooner.



To make owning your own home more affordable, the Victorian Government has introduced the Homebuyer Fund.

If you're an Aboriginal Victorian, a 3.5% deposit will get you started.

The Victorian Government will then contribute up to 35% of the purchase price, in exchange for an equivalent share in the property. This can help you reduce your mortgage.

Find out if you're eligible at vic.gov.au/homebuyer

Stamp duty and other costs are payable in addition to the deposit. Eligibility and lending criteria apply with selected banks and restrictions and obligations apply after purchase. Authorised by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne.