



Communique

Aboriginal Housing Victoria Board Meeting

Thursday 6 April 2023

The Board of Directors of Aboriginal Housing Victoria (AHV) held their second Board meeting for the calendar year on Thursday 6 April 2023, via videoconference.

Homes Victoria General lease

AHV has entered into an agreement with Homes Victoria, to manage approximately 130 properties under a general lease. To date, 66 properties have been transferred to AHV and allocated to Aboriginal households. At a time when private rental is unaffordable for so many members of our Aboriginal communities, the additional properties provided through the management transfer, are making a real difference to the lives of those families and households who now call these properties home.

AHV Directorships

AHV is about to commence a targeted Expression of Interest (EOI) process, to identify and attract Aboriginal candidates who have the required experience, skills and attributes to be appointed as Directors to the AHV Board.

We intend to approach institutions and organisations who employ and/or work with highly skilled Aboriginal people, who may want to be considered for future Board directorships. Further information will be available on the AHV website when the EOI process begins.

Victorian Homebuyer Fund (VHF)

The Homebuyer Program Coordinator, Noah Wright, has conducted homeownership info sessions across Victoria, being hosted by VACCA, VACCHO, BDAC, Djaara, GEGAC, VACSAL, Djirra, First Peoples Assembly, Ngwala and other key stakeholders. AHV is continuing to promote the VHF and spread awareness about homeownership, with a greater focus on social media and online engagement.

If you are interested in finding out more about the Victorian Homebuyer Fund, please contact Noah Wright, on Mobile: 0400 398 799 or Email: noah.wright@ahvic.org.au.

Kids under Cover

In early March, AHV was featured on NITV when the Victorian Housing Minister Colin Brooks visited one of the studios provided through the partnership between AHV and Kids Under Cover, to house young Aboriginal Victorians. [Watch it here.](#)

AHV property upgrades

AHV led a successful bid with 19 Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations, Traditional Owner groups and Aboriginal Trusts for \$35 million of Victorian Government funding in 2020, under the Aboriginal Rapid Housing Response Program (ARHRP).

Funding has been used to upgrade properties, including installation of solar panels, upgraded hot water services, air conditioning and ceiling fans. The Board noted that AHV has received a lot of positive feedback from renters whose homes have been upgraded, and who are now enjoying reduced power bills and more comfortable homes. As one AHV resident noted, having solar panels makes her family feel “like everyone else on the street”.

Unfortunately, ARHRP funding is not sufficient to provide upgrades to all AHV properties. Properties are prioritised on the basis of their general condition. If you'd like to know more, please contact AHV on 1800 248 842, or speak to your Housing Officer.

First Nationals Assembly

The Board noted that elections are currently open for Traditional Owners to stand as candidates, to represent their mob in Treaty negotiations that will commence later in 2023. Nominations close on 24 April 2023. To find out more information, or to nominate, go to:

<https://www.firstpeoplesvic.org/>