



3 April 2017

Removal of mortgage on AHV headquarters another step in the right direction for Aboriginal Victorians

Tim Chatfield, the Chair of Aboriginal Housing Victoria (AHV) today welcomed the announcement by the Premier of Victoria, Daniel Andrews to remove the first mortgage from AHV's head office, *Narrandjeri House* at 125-127 Scotchmer Street North Fitzroy. *Narrandjeri House* is a well known landmark in the North Fitzroy area and has been AHV's home since 1995.

The announcement follows the significant Government decision in 2016 to gradually transfer the title of over 1400 properties, previously managed by AHV on behalf of the Director of Housing. At the time, Mr Chatfield described title transfer as a landmark moment for AHV, and for Aboriginal people in Victoria.

"The decision to remove the first mortgage on *Narrandjeri House* is further proof of the genuine commitment of this Government to support self-determination for Aboriginal Victorians", Mr Chatfield said.

"Clarity of property rights allows AHV to make our own decisions about our assets and how we manage them, in a way that achieves optimal outcomes for our tenants.

"The removal of the first mortgage is also symbolically important to AHV and Aboriginal Victorians. The Minister for Aboriginal Affairs' first mortgage on *Narrandjeri House* was an anachronism; a reflection of the policies of past paternalistic Governments in Victoria. These policies limited the capacity of Aboriginal people to make their own decisions, and acted as a barrier to economic participation and perpetuated a cycle of disadvantage". Mr Chatfield said.

"AHV congratulates the Andrews Government in recognising that such practices are inconsistent with both the Government's self-determination agenda, and its commitment to working in partnership with Aboriginal Victorians to maximise their opportunities for social and economic participation".

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