



AHV Board Communique

Aboriginal Housing Victoria Board Meeting

Thursday 30 May 2024

The Board of Directors of Aboriginal Housing Victoria (AHV) held their fifth Board meeting for the calendar year on Thursday 30 May 2024.

Community consultation

The Board considered the impending consultation events for our renters, Community members and Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations between June and August. The events aim to cover a range of topics including sharing AHV's strategic plan, developing a new Renter Charter and most importantly, providing AHV an opportunity to listen to renter feedback.

Eight community consultation sessions are being held around Victoria in Wyndham Vale, Doveton, Ballarat, Thornbury, Mildura, Bendigo, Shepparton and Bairnsdale. Beyond this, an online 'Have Your Say' portal will be established for those who cannot attend. Details can be found [here](#).

Response to the State and Federal Budgets

Board directors discussed the advice provided on the Victorian 2025 budget on behalf of the Aboriginal Housing and Homelessness Forum Secretariat welcoming the \$15 million invested to address Aboriginal homelessness in the State Budget 2024-25, but arguing more funding is urgently needed to prevent escalating rates of Aboriginal homelessness and housing insecurity. Coverage of the media release is available at the [National Indigenous Times](#).

CEO, Darren Smith will also be interviewed on community radio station 3RRR's program [The Mission](#) at the start of June to discuss the outcomes for Aboriginal Victorians from both the State and Federal Budgets.

AHV Asset Management Plan

At today's meeting, the Board approved AHV's Asset Management Plan. The Asset Management Plan 2024-34 describes how AHV's assets are effectively managed and resources, financial and otherwise, are committed to developing, building, and maintaining desirable quality homes for our current and future renters.

Aboriginal Private Rental Program (APRAP)

AHV have continued to work with the Real Estate Institute of Victoria for the development of an Aboriginal Cultural Safety training module, which is to be delivered to real estate agents and property managers throughout Victoria. The training module, developed and delivered by Yarn Bark, aims to:

- be more culturally safe;
- attempt to reduce racism in the real estate sector;
- reduce access barriers for Aboriginal people when applying for a property; and
- deliver culturally safe tenancy management services.

Wellbeing Programs

Board directors acknowledged disappointment that after 7 years delivering support to the AHV renter community, the Life Skills Program has come to an end due to lack of funding. The program delivered a valuable service to our renters, engaging after sign-up with a welcome pack of much needed household items and enabling us to build rapport with many families and support them at times when they were experiencing challenges. We thank all the participants and our dedicated team.

The Life Coaching Program was rolled out to the East and South-Eastern suburbs and staff have been busy engaging with the renters in this catchment. The program is now available in all metropolitan areas, Geelong and Ballarat.

Life Coaching is a free culturally safe program that assists AHV renters to achieve individual and household goals, hopes and aspirations. In the past renters have worked on a range of goals such as creating a savings plan, enrolling in education, finding employment and helping their children engage at school. Many have completed 12 months of coaching, with an average of 80% goals being achieved.

If you are an AHV renter in Metropolitan Melbourne, Geelong or Ballarat and are interested in finding out more about Life Coaching you can call **1800 248 842** or email wellbeing@ahvic.org.au.