



ABORIGINAL HOUSING VICTORIA

Cultural Statement

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1. Purpose

The purpose of this Cultural Statement is to provide a statement of principles that govern the way Aboriginal Housing Victoria (AHV) conducts business and delivers housing services to Aboriginal¹ people.

2. Organisational context

AHV is a not-for-profit registered Housing Association and the largest non-government Aboriginal housing organisation in Australia.

We are an independent Aboriginal community organisation that provides culturally safe, affordable and secure housing to over 4,000 low-income Aboriginal Victorians in over 1800 properties across Victoria.

AHV is a proud agency: proud of the history and culture of the Aboriginal peoples of Victoria; proud of the Aboriginal people of Victoria who we serve; and proud of our unique identity and heritage.

AHV is governed by its Board of Directors. The Board sets the strategic directions of the organisation and monitors progress towards achievement of strategic objectives. The AHV Board also has responsibility for the governance, and financial and strategic oversight of AHV's activities. The AHV Board is the authorising body for new and/or revised AHV policies.

Relevant AHV values that underpin our policies include:

Respect and support for Aboriginal identity and culture and for our renters and stakeholders

Integrity, trust and honesty in all our business activities

Collaborative relationships with our community, renters, government and stakeholders

Kindness, compassion, courtesy and dignity in our relationships with our clients, our stakeholders and with each other.

3. Recognised Aboriginal cultural values

- Recognition and respect for country and for Traditional Owners and their role and position.
- Recognition of traditional law and custom and the importance of caring for country.
- Recognition of, and support for, the transmission of Aboriginal language, culture and beliefs and practices.
- Reciprocity and the obligation to share with and care for each other, and to be cared for on and off country.
- Respect for Aboriginal Elders and their role in communities.

¹Throughout this document the term "Aboriginal" is used to refer to both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

- Recognition and respect for the importance of families and extended family networks in the raising of children and in maintaining strong communities.
- Recognition of the right of, and importance to, Aboriginal people to practice their traditional culture.
- Respect for and support of Aboriginal people's right to maintain their connection to country, spirituality, culture and identity and to always maintain their dignity.

4. Cultural statement

The First Nations peoples of Australia have the oldest continuous cultures in the world. AHV celebrates and takes pride in the rich and spiritual culture, values and practices of Australia's First Nations people. We celebrate the significant contribution made by Aboriginal people and culture to the enrichment of Victorian society, and, we acknowledge and respect the special place of Victorian traditional owners as Victoria's First Nations peoples.

As an Aboriginal Community Organisation, we acknowledge that our legitimacy is derived from the strong relationships we have with Victoria's Aboriginal communities and our success is through achievement of our shared vision and aspirations.

Our vision is that **Aboriginal Victorians secure appropriate, affordable housing as a pathway to better lives and stronger communities.**

We believe that achievement of our vision is through the provision of housing services which enhance the dignity of our clients and renters and which respects and celebrates their cultural beliefs, values and practices.

Our policies and procedures are designed so that our practice and service delivery is in accord with this cultural statement.

5. Policy Log

Version	Approval date	Approved by	Changes	Review Date
1	June 2025	AHV Board	New policy	June 2028