



Communique

Aboriginal Housing Victoria Board Meeting

Thursday 31 July 2025

The Board of Directors of Aboriginal Housing Victoria (AHV) held their fifth Board meeting for the calendar year on Thursday 31 July 2025.

NAIDOC Family Day

The Board received a report on AHV's annual NAIDOC Family Day, which was held on Thursday 10 July at the Aborigines Advancement League. This was the first time in the event's 24-year history that AHV's NAIDOC Family Day was not held at Collingwood Children's Farm. Due to scheduling conflicts, it was also the first time the event was held on Thursday rather than the Wednesday of NAIDOC Week.

Despite these changes, and the forecast for very cold, wet weather, we had a turnout of around 1200 guests over the course of the day. This was around 200 fewer than we anticipated, after accounting for the lack of Farm visitors.

Other than some minor obstacles, the event went smoothly. The Indigenous Outreach Projects and Djirri Djirri Dancers were loved by the crowd, and Mitch Tambo was fantastic at getting the kids and their parents up and dancing.

The rain in the morning meant that the jumping castles and the marsupial and reptile enclosure had to be cancelled. However, the other activities – football, netball, softball, soccer and boomerang throwing – were all well attended, and benefitted from the additional space at the League. We ran a kids' talent stage for the first time, which was a huge success and is something we will continue in the future.

AHV was supported in the delivery of the event by around 50 volunteers from six organisations. They helped with checking in guests, face painting, arts and crafts, and the packing and distribution of over 500 show bags for guests. These contained a variety of donations from Softball Australia, Pinchapoo, CleverPatch and others.

The initial feedback from community and partner organisations has been very positive, especially with respect to the new venue. The League can also boast better car parking and public transport options compared to the Collingwood Children's Farm. Access for Elders was also better able to be accommodated at the League. With some fine tuning we can only improve on the delivery of the event in future. Feedback is always welcome from our renters and other community members on how we can make next year's NAIDOC event even better.

Community consultation report

The Board received a report on the outcomes from the AHV community consultations conducted during the first half of 2025, at the following locations:

Broadmeadows	Monday 24 February	Gunung-Willam-Balluk Learning Centre Kangan TAFE
Morwell	Tuesday 18 March	The Gathering Place
Ringwood	Tuesday 25 March	Central Ringwood Community Centre
Frankston	Thursday 3 April	Nairn Marr Djambana Aboriginal Gathering Place
Warrnambool	Tuesday 29 April	Gunditjmara Aboriginal Cooperative
Geelong	Wednesday 30 April	Corio Library
Shepparton	Wednesday 14 May	Bangerang Cultural Centre
Echuca	Thursday 15 May	Njernda Aboriginal Corporation

A total of 180 people attended the consultations: 121 people attended the renter and community session, and 59 people attended the organisational session. However, there was often overlap, with some workers attending the community sessions as advocates or support people for renters, or workers themselves may have been renters.

To complement these in-person sessions, an online 'Have Your Say' portal was also available.

At the consultation sessions, we spoke to renters and community members about:

- how AHV has worked to improve maintenance processes since the 2024 consultations;
- new community engagement opportunities like the renter portal; and
- our work through AHV's leadership and secretariat roles within *Mana-na Woorn-Tyeen Maar-Takoort*, Victoria's Aboriginal housing and homelessness policy to increase the supply of housing for community.

Renters and community members were also surprised to learn that AHV does not receive any ongoing government funding for its housing tenancy management and maintenance services. These services are entirely funded from rent revenue.

The key issues raised by renters and community members in the morning sessions were:

- The urgent need for more housing, both long and short term, and housing in a range of sizes remains a critical community concern.
- Improving maintenance, with much of the feedback related to the delays, rather than works not being done.

AHV staff committed to following up on all specific housing or maintenance issues raised by renters at the sessions.

Funding for More than a Landlord (MTAL)

The AHV was pleased to note that Homes Victoria has confirmed an allocation of funding of \$380,000 to enable AHV to extend MTAL for another 12 months. We are now looking to 12-month contracts to suitable candidates to deliver this important wellbeing service for AHV renters.

AHV will continue to advocate for an ongoing government funding stream that will enable the service to be available to AHV renters across the State, and potentially to all Aboriginal social housing renters in Victoria.