



AHV Board Communique

Aboriginal Housing Victoria Board Meeting

Thursday 25 July 2024

The Board of Directors of Aboriginal Housing Victoria (AHV) held their eighth Board meeting for the calendar year on Thursday 25 July 2024.

Community consultation

We are now half-way through our series of community consultation sessions with renters, community and ACCOs. We have held four consultations to date (Wyndham Vale, Ballarat, Doveton, and Thornbury), and have another four scheduled in regional locations.

Feedback from renters, community and ACCOs has been very supportive of the directions outlined in AHV's Draft Strategic Plan, and the updating of the Renter Charter. Community feedback has also been invaluable in informing how AHV's services can be improved to help us to deliver the best possible outcomes for our renters. Renters and community have been very positive and appreciative of the opportunity to have a face-to-face yarn with AHV senior management.

The AHV Board noted with interest the key issues that have been raised so far, by AHV renters and community members. A more detailed report will be presented to the Board when the current series of community consultations have been completed.

The remaining four community consultations are scheduled for:

- Wednesday 31 July 2024 – Mildura at MDAS;
- Monday 5 August 2024 – Bendigo at BDAC;
- Tuesday 6 August 2024- Shepparton at the Parklake Hotel
- Tuesday 13 August 2024 – Bairnsdale at The Hub.

If you are unable to attend the community consultations but want to provide feedback to us, we have set up an online 'Have Your Say' portal. Details can be found [here](#).

AHV NAIDOC Event

AHV's NAIDOC Family Day was a great success again this year. During planning, we received two grants from City of Yarra and NIAA, totalling \$65,000. This covered most of our operational expenses and paid for higher profile artists to perform at our event. It also enabled AHV to provide some support for several regional NAIDOC Week events in Ballarat and Bendigo. We reached out to a vast number of sponsors, who donated around \$100,000 worth of products for raffle prizes and show bags that we handed out to guests on the day.

The weather just held out for the event, and around 1,700 guests turned up; approximately 1,450 were there specifically for our event, and they were joined by around 280 visitors to the Farm. Our staff were

joined by around 50 volunteers from KraftHeinz, Barpa Constructions, Indigenous Business Australia, Juno and others.

The traditional craft activities and face painting were held in the Barn, which was packed with happy and excited kids throughout the day. The lines for the BBQ didn't let up until late in the day and all the information stalls reported plenty of interest from community members.

After Traditional Owner Uncle Perry Wandin performed a Welcome to Country and a Smoking Ceremony, we had a fantastic hip hop dance workshop from Indigenous Outreach Projects. The workshop was enjoyed by lots of kids and their families who had a great time dancing along in the paddock. Live performances from Kee'ahn and Monica Karo carried the afternoon beautifully.

The AHV Board thanked the 1700 renters and community members who braved the weather to join AHV in celebrating NAIDOC Week. The Board also acknowledged the efforts of AHV staff and volunteers in the planning and delivery of the event.

AHV staff are now taking the time to look at ways we can make the event even more successful, and we're looking forward to putting these into practice next year.

AHV Getting into Work and Training Scholarship

AHV is offering renters 'Getting Into Work & Training Scholarships' of up to \$500, to assist with some of the costs of getting into work or training. The Board received an update on the program and noted that another three scholarships have recently been awarded to AHV renters: two for payments towards training costs, and one for materials to create artworks for sale.

There are still some scholarships available, so interested AHV renters should check out more information on our website [here](#). Or you can call us on 1800 248 842 or email: community@ahvic.org.au.

Aboriginal Rapid Housing Response program

Under the Aboriginal Rapid Housing Response Program (ARHRP), a three-stage implementation plan delivered 12 works programs incorporating over 7,000 work orders, across more than 2,000 properties. The ARHRP is now complete, with \$34M of works delivered to AHV and 15 other Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation (ACCOs) properties. The Board noted that the ARHRP Project Control Group had their final meeting in June 2024.

The AHV Board recognised that completion of the project is a great example of what can be achieved with genuine collaboration between government and across Aboriginal communities. Board Directors expressed their appreciation for the sustained efforts of AHV staff, our ACCO partners, and Homes Victoria to deliver and complete this complex program.