



AHV Board Communique

Aboriginal Housing Victoria Board Meeting

Thursday 26 September 2024

The Board of Directors of Aboriginal Housing Victoria (AHV) held their tenth Board meeting for the calendar year on Thursday 26 September 2024.

AHV Property Sales

The AHV Board approved the sale of 8 identified AHV properties. All are vacant, uneconomically viable, sub-standard properties that are not suitable for upgrading or redevelopment. They are also located in areas where demand is relatively low.

Cyclical maintenance contract

Engagement of a contractor to conduct important safety checks on AHV's properties was approved by the AHV Board at the September meeting. Under the amendments to the Residential Tenancy Act (RTA) introduced in 2022, AHV is required to conduct regular inspections in respect to any property leased on or after 29 March 2021, including Electrical Safety Checks and Gas Safety Checks every two years, and Smoke Alarm checks annually.

AHV Procurement policy

The AHV Board approved a revision to the Procurement policy to more strongly state AHV's commitment to support and engage Aboriginal businesses, as part of its procurement policy and processes. The revised policy clearly states that wherever possible and within the bounds of practicality, AHV will provide preferential status to positively advantage Aboriginal businesses. This includes businesses committed to engaging Aboriginal employees and subcontractors.

End of year reporting

The *Performance against Performance Standards* report was approved by the AHV Board and will now be submitted to the Office of the Housing Registrar.

The Board also approved the Annual Audited Accounts, for presentation at the AHV Annual General Meeting in November 2024.

As part of AHV's reporting requirements to the Housing Registrar, AHV is required to submit the *Performance against Performance Standards* report to the Housing Registrar by 31 October each year.

Aboriginal Housing and Homelessness Forum (AHHF)

The Board noted that the AHHF held its 40th forum on 11 and 12 September at Rumbalara Aboriginal Cooperative in Shepparton.

Day 1 was members' day for the forum, with 27 members attending (in person and online), representing 21 member organisations. On Day 2, which includes partners we had 47 members and partners attend (in person and online), which included 17 partners, representing 1 community peak, and 5 government departments as well as 25 member organisations.

Key actions and discussions included:

- an AHHF members' vote on State Budget priorities to be detailed in a submission to government in the coming weeks;
- discussion and planned actions on developing a homelessness target as part of the implementation of Victoria's Aboriginal housing and homelessness policy, [Mana-na worn-tyeen maar-takoort](#) (Every Aboriginal Person Has a Home);
- improving members' access to Social Housing Growth funds and options for growth should a larger investment strategy for housing supply be advocated for/negotiated between State and Commonwealth funds.

Prior to the next meeting of the Victorian Aboriginal Housing and Homelessness Implementation Working Group to be held on 16 October, two out of session workshops for AHHF members have been convened to:

- identify and prioritise high-need groups for transitional housing (and subsequent operational funding for service delivery models) to support the AHHF State Budget Bid; and
- further progress the Aboriginal Social Housing Growth Strategy, including feedback and opportunities to improve the current Social Housing Growth Fund, to maximise access for Aboriginal organisations and communities.