



Communique

Aboriginal Housing Victoria Board Meeting

Thursday 3 October 2023

The Board of Directors of Aboriginal Housing Victoria (AHV) held their thirteenth Board meeting for the calendar year on Thursday 7 October 2023.

Out of session meeting

The Board met out of session on 18 September 2023 to consider and approve AHV's submission to the Mental Health Supported Housing Round 2 of the Social Housing Growth Fund. If successful, the project will be developed and delivered in partnership with Mind Australia and the Victorian Aboriginal Health Service.

Annual Report

The Board considered and approved the Annual Audited Accounts for 2022-23, and the text for AHV's Annual Report, which will now be finalised for presentation at the Annual General Meeting. It will then be made available publicly via our website and sent to stakeholders via email.

As in previous years, a hard copy summary of the Annual Report will be produced for circulation to AHV renters.

Policy reviews

The Board considered and approved revised policy documents on the following topics:

- Board Charter
- Sponsorship policy
- Equal Opportunity, Inclusion and Anti-bullying policy.

Response to Renter Satisfaction Survey

The AHV Board and Staff are concerned that overall satisfaction with AHV and with our maintenance services reduced in the 2023 Renter Satisfaction Survey, and we are committed to developing and implementing service improvements to achieve increased levels of renter satisfaction. To this end, a comprehensive work plan has been developed, detailing a range of initiatives to increase our engagement with renters, and enhance service responsiveness.

Blueprint for an Aboriginal-specific Homelessness System

The first stage of the implementation of the *Blueprint for an Aboriginal-specific Homelessness System in Victoria* is underway. Stage one involves the design and implementation of two Aboriginal-specific Entry Points into the homelessness service system. The Entry Points will be based at Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations in two priority areas; one in regional Victoria and one in metropolitan Melbourne.

New website for the Victorian Aboriginal Housing and Homelessness Framework

The new website for the Victorian Aboriginal Housing and Homelessness Framework, *Mana-na woorn-tyeen maar-takoort*, is now live at <https://vahhf.org.au/>. The artwork created by Peek and Kirrae Whurrong artist Bayley Mifsud (Merindah-Gunya), features six icons which symbolise the key focus areas of *Mana-na woorn-tyeen maar-takoort*: homelessness, capacity building, private rental, social housing, rent to buy and home ownership. Our Communications Officer, Jamie Vergara is seeking feedback on the website. If you have ideas or suggestions for improvement, Jamie would love to hear from you. Jamie can be contacted via Email jamie.vergara@ahvic.org.au.

Gippsland fires and floods

The AHV Board asked for an update on the impact of the fires and floods on AHV renters in Gippsland. We were not aware of any of our community members being directly impacted at that stage. Housing Officers had made several calls to AHV renters in the affected areas, and efforts to contact all potentially affected renters were planned over the following days. AHV has also posted information on our social media sites, to advise our renters about emergency service responses and community support that may be available. Links to our relevant Instagram and Facebook posts are provided below:

<https://www.instagram.com/p/Cx9A3iNvo2j/>

<https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=703952285095498&set=a.554708933353168>