



## **Communique**

### **Aboriginal Housing Victoria Board Meeting**

### **Thursday 5 August 2021**

The Board of Directors of Aboriginal Housing Victoria (AHV) held their tenth Board meeting for the calendar year on Thursday 5 August 2021, via videoconference.

#### **Family Violence Position Paper**

Part of AHV's role to support the goals of the Victorian Aboriginal Housing and Homelessness Framework, *Mana-na woorn-tyeen maar-takoort*, is to produce position papers with recommendations for government which relate to Aboriginal housing and homelessness in Victoria. The position papers allow AHV to rapidly respond to calls for funding submissions, and advocacy opportunities.

The Board noted the Aboriginal Housing and Homelessness Forum position paper on Family Violence which was developed in consultation with Djirra, as the specialist provider for family violence. The paper calls for further reforms in social housing and the service delivery sector, to more appropriately respond to the continually higher exposure rates to family violence, experienced by Victorian Aboriginal community members.

#### **Human Resource Policy Review**

The review of AHV's Human Resources policies is continuing and the following documents were approved by the AHV Board:

- Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) and Wellbeing Policy;
- Return to Work and Rehabilitation Policy;
- Privacy Policy; and
- Public Interest Disclosure Policy.

#### **Aboriginal Rapid Housing Response Program**

The implementation of the Aboriginal Rapid Housing Response Program (ARHRP), which is delivering maintenance and upgrades to Aboriginal community owned properties across Victoria, is progressing. The Board approved the ARHRP Evaluation and Procurement Plan, which identifies a detailed procurement and construction tender strategy that will apply to all stages of the project and sets out a number of controls, policies and procedures to ensure the overall success of the project.

### **Discharge of mortgage over Narrandjeri House**

AHV made application to the Victorian Government's *First Mortgage and Infrastructure Program*, to remove the mortgage over our head office building, Narrandjeri House, in Scotchmer Street, North Fitzroy. The Minister for Aboriginal Affairs recently confirmed that the mortgage has been discharged. This means AHV now has full ownership and control over the property. The removal of first mortgages hands back control to Aboriginal organisations and is a recognition by the Government that first mortgages on Aboriginal community-owned properties is inconsistent with the Government's commitment to self determination.