



Communique

Aboriginal Housing Victoria Board Meeting Thursday 21 February, 2019

The Board of Directors of Aboriginal Housing Victoria (AHV) held their first Board meeting for the calendar year on Thursday 21 February, 2019 in Melbourne.

Victorian Housing Register

The Board noted that AHV is no longer maintaining its own waiting list and will now identify eligible applicants for vacant AHV properties from the Victorian Housing Register (VHR). Existing AHV applicants will receive letters from the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) confirming:

- their application has been transferred to the VHR;
- their areas of preference (as listed on their original application); and
- the current status of their applications (priority or register of interest).

Transfer to the VHR does not mean that applicants must accept housing offers from any social housing provider. Applicants still have the choice to identify one or more social housing providers from whom they want to receive future housing offers.

There are four ways an applicant can submit a new application to the VHR:

- online application, through the applicant's *MyGov* account;
- at their local DHHS Housing office;
- paper application (AHV has hard copies at our offices if applicants require them); or
- through a support agency.

The Victorian Government's VHR reforms are designed to give social housing applicants, including Aboriginal applicants, greater choice in their future housing options.

If you are an applicant for AHV housing, or have applied to transfer from your current AHV property, and you are unsure what these changes mean for you, please contact our **Client Services Team** on **9403 2100**.

Tenant Relocation policy

The Board approved the AHV Tenant Relocation policy. The Tenant Relocation policy will apply if a tenanted property is identified that is particularly suitable for redevelopment, and there are funds available to progress the project. AHV will work with the tenant and tenant's representative to negotiate an agreed relocation plan that meets the tenant's housing requirements. This may include moving back to the site, when the redevelopment has been completed, should the tenant wish to do so and there will be suitable housing available for the household when the site has been redeveloped.

The policy will now be included on AHV's website: **Include webpage link*

Capital upgrades to 15 properties in the Loddon and Hume regions

The Board approved the letting of a contract for major capital upgrade works on 15 AHV properties across the Loddon/Hume regions, as part of the AHV Capital Upgrades Program, at a cost of over \$500,000. The upgrades will incorporate new technology, fittings and finishes of a high quality that will improve the amenity of the houses for tenants and their families. The Capital Upgrade Program supports AHV's capacity to provide our tenants with high quality, culturally appropriate and sustainable housing into the future.