



Communique

Aboriginal Housing Victoria Board Meeting

Thursday 24 June 2021

The Board of Directors of Aboriginal Housing Victoria (AHV) held their ninth Board meeting for the calendar year on Thursday 24 June 2021, via videoconference.

2021-22 Budget and Business Plan

As part of AHV's regulatory compliance requirements, AHV is required to submit an annual Business Plan to the Housing Registrar. The Business Plan focuses on key achievements of 2020-21, and key challenges and actions for 2021-22, and was approved by the Board at today's meeting.

The Board also approved the 2021-22 AHV Budget, as endorsed by the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee.

Aboriginal Community Home Connect Program

Through telephone and internet contact with AHV and Aboriginal public housing households across Victoria, the Aboriginal Community Home Connect (ACHC) program provides:

- resources and support services;
- support for children and youth at school;
- the latest information on COVID-19 and how to stay safe during the pandemic;
- Information and regular follow-ups for physical and mental health, financial difficulties, housing and child welfare services;
- resources and advice to support tenancies; and
- social connection with community and an opportunity for isolated community members to have a regular yarn.

The Board noted that the program continues to be in high demand. There is currently over 300 clients being supported through the program. The need for food aid, relieving social isolation and mental health remain the top three issues for callers.

AHV is advocating strongly to secure funding for this program that lapses in August 2021, given the express need for support of this kind to Aboriginal renters in AHV properties and public housing.

AHV and public tenants seeking assistance through the ACHC can Free Call on 1800 313 030, or send an email to homeconnect@ahvic.org.au.

Mia Mia newsletter

The Board noted that second edition of *Mia Mia* for 2021 has been published. Featured articles include an update on the Rapid Housing Response Program, NAIDOC Week 2021, More Than Landlord, Aboriginal Community Home Connect and the Annual VAHMF Report Card.

NAIDOC Week 2021 (4-11 July)

Preparations are being finalised for a series of musical performances and workshops, to be streamed online during NAIDOC Week. A full schedule will be available on AHV's website and social media. There will also be two small in-person events at the Collingwood Children's Farm (storytelling for kids and a weaving workshop). Both of these events will be outdoors and compliant with public gathering limits.

In addition, there are dedicated photo and writing competitions for AHV's renters; promoted through *Mia Mia* and AHV's website. Both competitions encourage the celebration of culture and NAIDOC Week, while reflecting on this year's theme, *Heal Country*, and what it means to us all.