



Communique Aboriginal Housing Victoria Board Meeting Thursday 24 September 2020

The Board of Directors of Aboriginal Housing Victoria (AHV) held their eleventh Board meeting for the calendar year on Thursday 24 September 2020 via videoconference.

Victorian Government COVID-19 Economic Stimulus projects

AHV is currently recruiting to the position of Manager for the Aboriginal Community Home Connect program, to lead the development and implementation of the program to be delivered to Aboriginal social housing households. The position is identified for Aboriginal applicants only.

Through telephone and internet contact with Aboriginal social housing households across Victoria, the Aboriginal Community Home Connect program will deliver:

- deliver immediate support, assistance and service referral;
- support social and community connection; and
- build cultural strength and resilience that lasts beyond the pre-vaccination COVID-19 crisis.

AHV will deliver the program with financial assistance from the Victorian Government, as part of its COVID-19 economic stimulus and support response.

Further information will be provided to the AHV community when the program commences. We will be looking to recruit Aboriginal people to deliver the program, with preference being given to AHV tenants and household members.

Mana-Na Woorn-Tyeen Maar-Takoort: Victorian Aboriginal Housing and Homelessness Framework

The Board noted that the second meeting of the *Mana-Na Woorn-Tyeen Maar-Takoort* Implementation Working Group is scheduled for 1 October 2020. The two major items for consideration are:

- a paper outlining the key issues of an Expenditure Review Committee proposal for consideration as part of the 2021-2022 State budget. Long-term government funding is needed to support implementation of the Framework recommendations; and
- a paper proposing the design of an annual public report of outcomes against the Framework; to be released on the anniversary of the *Mana-Na Woorn-Tyeen Maar-Takoort* launch on 26 February.

Communications

The Board noted that the July/August *Mia Mia* newsletter has been posted to all AHV tenants. The highlight is AHV's new 1800 (freecall) number. AHV tenants can now contact us on **1800 248 842 (1800 AHV VIC)**. Calls are free from most mobile and landline providers. The number is also available to contact the after-hours emergency maintenance service.

The newsletter also includes a 'behind the scenes' meet our staff section; and a list of helpful resources from Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations, including advice from VACCHO on staying healthy during the COVID-19 pandemic.

AHV COVID-19 Update

We understand that many people are experiencing higher levels of stress and hardship as a result of the COVID-19 crisis. To keep our community safe, government and community agencies are adopting a partnership approach to the crisis.

These are the 3 points of contact we strongly recommend for access to health updates and services:

- Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) coronavirus updates. This should be your first point of reference for government-issued updates related to the outbreak. Visit <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus> or call 1800 675 398 (available 24/7). Please leave 000 (triple zero) for emergencies only.
- Victorian Aboriginal Health Service (VAHS): VAHS is available for a range of services, including if you are suffering from stress or anxiety related to the outbreak. You can follow them on Facebook page for the latest updates <https://www.facebook.com/victorianaboriginalhealthservice/> or give them a call on (03) 9403 3300.
- Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (VACCHO): please visit their website to learn more about VACCHO's response: <https://www.vaccho.org.au/about-us/covid19/>

Keep strong and stay connected. If you need support, there is support out there:

- Victorian Aboriginal Health Service **03 9403 3300**
- Djirra Aboriginal Women's well-being helpline **1800 105 303**
- Dardi Munwurro Aboriginal men's well-being helpline **1800 435 799**
- Safe Steps family violence support **1800 015 188**
- Beyond Blue **1300 22 46 36**
- Lifeline **131 114**
- Kids Helpline **1800 551 800**
- In a medical emergency call **000**

Remember to practice good hygiene and regularly wash your hands to stop the spread. Please visit our website <https://ahvic.org.au/communications-and-resources/coronavirus> for the most current information from us and for a list of support services.