



Communique

Aboriginal Housing Victoria Board Meeting

Thursday, 31 May 2018

The Board of Directors of Aboriginal Housing Victoria (AHV) held their third Board meeting for the calendar year on Thursday 31 May, 2018 in Melbourne.

Aboriginal workforce development

The Board noted AHV's successful bid for Victorian Government funding to support the development of the Aboriginal workforce across the health and human services sectors. AHV will use these funds to provide health and wellbeing support, training and qualification pathways for Aboriginal staff. The funding will assist AHV to achieve its ongoing commitment to recruit, support and develop Aboriginal people.

Aboriginal Housing and Homelessness Framework

The Board endorsed AHV taking a lead role in the development of a Victorian Aboriginal Housing and Homelessness Framework.

The State Government and Aboriginal organisations have indicated their support for AHV to lead this work and the Board thanks the State Government for funding to deliver the Framework.

The Board noted that development of the Framework will involve consultation with the community.

Pyrox gas heaters

AHV received advice from the Department of Health and Human Services on 29 March 2018, regarding the Department's response to the decision by the Australian Gas Association and Energy Safe Victoria, to suspend the certification for *Pyrox Vulcan 48* series space heaters until further notice. Certification has been suspended on the basis of tests indicating that these heaters can produce unsafe levels of carbon monoxide under certain conditions.

Following this advice the Board approved the immediate replacement of *Pyrox Vulcan 48* series space heaters in properties owned and managed by Aboriginal Housing Victoria. Tenants living in properties where these heaters have been installed have been advised to cease using the heaters until they can be replaced.

AHV Contractors were engaged in May 2018 to complete the heater replacements. AHV is aiming to replace all *Pyrox Vulcan 48* space heaters by the end of June 2018.

Tenants who suspect they may have a *Pyrox Vulcan 48* heater should refer to AHV's website for further information.

NAIDOC Collingwood Children's Farm Event and Title Transfer Celebrations

The Board noted that this year's AHV NAIDOC event will be held on Wednesday 11 July 2018 at the Collingwood Children's Farm. It's the 19th year that AHV will be hosting this popular event at the Farm.

This year we will also be celebrating the third and final transfer of ownership of properties from the Victorian Government to AHV. This is a very significant moment in AHV's journey, as the vision of our Elders for Aboriginal Victorians to achieve self determination by owning and managing their own social housing becomes a reality.

All AHV tenants and the Victorian Aboriginal community more broadly are warmly invited to be a part of the celebrations.