



Communique

Aboriginal Housing Victoria Board Meeting

Tuesday 4 December 2018

The Board of Directors of Aboriginal Housing Victoria (AHV) held their ninth Board meeting for the calendar year on Tuesday 4 December, 2018 in Melbourne.

Victorian election

The ALP policy platform identified a number of commitments that are relevant to AHV, and to the Aboriginal Victorian community. These included:

- Developing an Aboriginal Victorian housing and homelessness strategy with Aboriginal Housing Victoria, that increases stock, responds to demands and addresses Aboriginal Victorians' barriers to securing housing; and
- Enabling organisations providing Aboriginal housing to provide Aboriginal-specific case management support services, including for Aboriginal Victorians on waiting lists and current public and social housing tenants.

AHV will be seeking to meet with the new Housing Minister, the Hon Richard Wynne, MP and the new Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, the Hon Gavin Jennings, MLC as soon as possible, to progress these policy commitments.

Approved suppliers – Architectural panel

The Board approved a proposal to establish an Architectural panel of Approved Suppliers, with expertise in the design and delivery of medium density social housing. The establishment of the panel will allow AHV to obtain timely design proposals from companies with appropriate expertise. It will also ensure that AHV is in a strong position to prepare competitive submissions for capital funding opportunities that may become available at relatively short notice.

Victorian Housing Register

The Board approved several minor policy changes to AHV's Housing Services Manual and Privacy policy, to reflect Victorian Housing Register (VHR) policies and guidelines. The Board noted that AHV has a range of communications and office systems in place and is now in a position to accept the Director of Housing's invitation to opt-in to the VHR.

Toy Appeal

The Board noted that AHV's Toy Appeal is once again in full swing. Local community members and businesses are again donating gifts and toys, so that we can distribute these to tenants and their families at Christmas time.

AHV staff and volunteers are collecting, sorting, allocating and distributing gifts to as many tenants and their families as possible; to provide some additional support during what can be a stressful time of year for some families.

If we can help you by providing some gifts for your children, please contact your Housing Officer or call our Client Services Team on **9403 2100**, and we will do our very best to organise some suitable gifts for you.

Christmas office closure

The Board has approved the closure of AHV offices between Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Offices will re-open on Wednesday 2 January 2018. As in previous years, systems will be in place to manage any emergency tenancy management issues that may occur during the period.

If you require maintenance services are required during the Christmas/New Year period, please call the AHV **Maintenance Call Centre on 9403 2150**. Maintenance calls will be automatically diverted to the after-hours service and an on-call staff member will be available to respond to any emergency requests.

On behalf of the AHV Board, the Chairperson, Tim Chatfield wished all AHV tenants, staff and their families a safe and happy Christmas and New Year.