



ABORIGINAL HOUSING VICTORIA

# MIA MIA Tenant Newsletter

Edition 6 - 2020

## WE ARE HIRING PEER RESEARCHER POSITIONS

**We are expanding our More Than a Landlord program and are looking to hire current or past tenants to assist in the program's expansion.**

More Than a Landlord aims to improve the health and wellbeing of tenants through providing a life coaching service. Life coaching goals, for example, may be saving money for a car or getting a qualification at TAFE. We are expanding More Than a Landlord life coaching services to tenants in North West metropolitan Melbourne, Ballarat and Greater Geelong. As part of the expansion, AHV is hiring Peer Researchers to undertake surveys with interested tenants about their wellbeing and aspirations. Peer Researchers are people from within the Victorian Aboriginal community who are trained to conduct surveys.

### What past Peer Researchers have to say.

Alisha, a previous Peer Researcher commented that "we are all AHV tenants ourselves so we've been given the opportunity to be able to speak up and have a voice for tenants in general. I've found that to be liberating for myself, all the others would agree with me in that."

Lucinda, another Peer Researcher commented that "we are sent out on behalf of Aboriginal Housing to be a voice, because we are tenants ourselves and we can understand their everyday life."

### We are currently recruiting for Peer Researcher positions:

- **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander applicants only can apply.**
- **Current or past tenants of AHV preferred.**
- **Position will be based in North Fitzroy, Ballarat and Geelong.**

Peer researchers will receive training on how to conduct surveys with tenants and then be employed casually to make appointments and complete surveys with tenants. Peer Researchers will have flexible casual work over 18 months that provides valuable skills and work experience. Applications close 1 January 2021.

If you are interested in becoming a Peer Researcher or would like to know more you can contact:

[jobs@ahvic.org.au](mailto:jobs@ahvic.org.au) / **1800 248 842**. For more information visit: <https://ahvic.org.au/about/ahv-careers>

Contact our Human Resources team for a FAQ sheet that includes more information about what a Peer Researcher does, as well as a template of a resume and letter of application.

Included with this newsletter is a magnet with our free call number: **1800 248 842**. For a copy of our full Annual Report visit our website: [www.ahvic.org.au](http://www.ahvic.org.au)

## MEET OUR DEADLY STAFF

Meet our Northern Region Tenancy Team.

Your Housing Officer can assist you with:

- rent payments;
- solving tenancy problems such as complaints;
- maintaining your tenancy;
- arrears management;
- inspections; and
- your rights and responsibilities.

### NORTHERN VICTORIA HOUSING OFFICERS

Kim	Lisa - NEW	Kevin	Jayden - NEW
Senior Housing Officer (Northern Victoria)	Housing Officer (Loddon)	Housing Officer (Hume)	Housing Officer (Mallee)
			
Loddon region: Bendigo and surrounds.	Loddon region: Echuca, Swan Hill, Shepparton and surrounds.	Hume region: Wodonga, Shepparton and surrounds.	Mallee region: Mildura, Robinvale and surrounds.
<p>I grew up in Geelong. My mob are Wemba Wemba.</p> <p>I grew up on Wathaurong Country and now live on Dja Dja Wurrung Country.</p> <p>For holidays, I enjoy visiting the beach and going back to the coast.</p> <p>I love animals especially my fur baby, my pet dog, who is nick named Mo.</p>	<p>I grew up in regional NSW.</p> <p>In my down time, I love hanging out with friends and family.</p> <p>I enjoy being creative. My hobbies outside work include painting and drawing - anything related to art. I have a habit of collecting fabric!</p>	<p>I am proudly from the Moriradu clan, Bangerang Nation. I grew up in Cummeragunja.</p> <p>Outside work, I enjoy making Indigenous art.</p> <p>I follow AFL. My AFL team is the Kangaroos.</p> <p>I love foods made with curry. My favourite bush tucker is yabbies and crays.</p>	<p>I was born at the Old Mildura Base Hospital. I have Torres Strait Islander heritage.</p> <p>Outside work, I enjoy reading books, watching movies and playing video games. I am interested in science fiction, thrillers, horror and fantasy.</p>

If you are unsure who your Housing Officer is or what their phone number is, please contact our head office on **1800 248 842** to confirm your Housing Officer and their contact details.

## AHV HAS A NEW LOOK

Aboriginal Housing Victoria (AHV) is proud to represent over 4,000 tenants and household members, each with their own unique stories, cultural ties and connections to Country.

We are also very privileged to operate on the lands of Aboriginal people, who have respected, cared for and had a deep connection to these lands for thousands of years.

These lands – as well as the seas, the rivers, the bush and the earth – form an integral part of the stories of Aboriginal people. AHV is committed to celebrating these stories.

AHV was established in 1981 by a Board of determined and dedicated Elders. We have now grown into the largest Aboriginal housing organisation in Australia, with over 1,548 properties under our ownership and more than 60 staff members.

We are continuing to grow rapidly. Our drive for self-determination, a unique, clear and strong identity, as well as advocacy on issues that matter to our community, is coinciding with this growth.

We have produced a new Aboriginal-designed logo that reflects this evolution while also honouring the heritage from which AHV was born. It retains the Mia Mia and incorporates the state icon to highlight our area of operation.

The new logo also incorporates colours significant to Aboriginal Victorians representing:

- the blues of our sea and rivers,
- the greens of the beautiful Victorian bush, and
- the ochres of the earth

It is hoped that the new logo will generate discussion around the rich history and culture of Aboriginal people in Victoria, and also be a source of pride for tenants of AHV and all who reside on these special lands.



Tenants can expect to see this new logo on our staff ID cards, formal letters and notices.

## CEO CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Thank you to all AHV tenants for your resilience and strength during such a challenging year.

Our full Annual Report is now available online. Within it are reflections and achievements during 2019–2020.

We are proud to have provided support to many households in need this year by giving gifts for children. We also delivered hampers to Elders 60+ years of age, living in AHV households. Our tenants and the Aboriginal community continue to remain at the heart of what we do and why our organisation exists.

**AHV will be closed from 25 Dec Christmas Day and will reopen 2 Jan 2021.**

Our after-hours service will operate during this time. Call 1800 248 842 for urgent maintenance.

We wish you and your families a safe and happy holiday season.

- Darren Smith CEO



## BEAT THE SUMMER HEAT

- Keep your grass cut down to reduce the risk of fires.
- Keep your blinds closed (especially on the north and west facing windows) to significantly cool your home.
- Remove any debris that may be lying in the yard –this may attract snakes on the warmer days
- Don't forget your pets – a cool bath or wet towel to lie on, and place it next to a fan with plenty of drinking water.



## STAY SAFE AND ALERT

Call **132 500** from anywhere in Victoria for flood, storm, tsunami and earthquake emergency. For life-threatening emergencies call Triple Zero (000).

The Vic Emergency website: <http://www.emergency.vic.gov.au/respond/> provides emergency warnings.

If you observe symptoms of heat-related stress (i.e. cramps, exhaustion, nausea, sweating) you can seek medical help by calling NURSE-ON-CALL on **1300 60 60 24** for 24-hour free health advice.



## CHANGES TO OUR SERVICES

AHV is operating in line with Victorian Government requirements and, in the interest of our staff and tenants' safety, the Annual Rent Review is postponed. If your circumstances have changed and you believe you may be eligible for a rent reduction please contact us.

Visit our website [www.ahvic.org.au](http://www.ahvic.org.au) Follow us on Facebook and Instagram @AboriginalHousingVictoria

Phone ☎ Free call **1800 248 842** ☎ Phone **(03) 9403 2100**

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