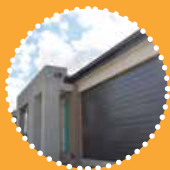


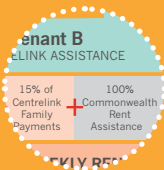


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Aunty Di delivered the Welcome to Country at AHV's NAIDOC Family Day in 2017

Aunty Barbara is also part of a local Elders group and is building stronger ties to the community

Aunties making a difference

HIGHLIGHTING WOMEN'S ACHIEVEMENTS

As we draw closer to NAIDOC Week 2018, AHV continues to celebrate the achievements of the many Indigenous women in our community who inspire us.

One of these women is Aunty Diane Kerr, a Wurundjeri Elder and AHV tenant. Aunty Di has spent her life contributing to the community in the areas of health, welfare and education.

She has served as a director of the Dandenong and District Aboriginal Co-operative as well as the Narragol Housing Co-operative, and has chaired the Community Advisory Committee at the Royal Women's Hospital (Melbourne). She also helped found research at University of Melbourne's Heart Research Centre around mental illness and chronic disease afflicting Wurundjeri people, which received funding from Beyondblue.

Aunty Di has also been a passionate advocate for land rights and is Chairperson of Native Title Services Victoria.

"Only when we have a strong connection with our land, will our culture grow and flourish." — Aunty Di Kerr

Inspired herself by the women in her family, she has been a mentor and foster carer for Aboriginal children and other young people.

This kind of compassion is reflected in the deeds of Aunty Barbara Stewart, an Awabakal woman and Mill Park resident of 18 years. She has spent 14 years working in aged care for local Councils and has proven herself to be a kind-hearted matriarch, fostering her granddaughter who is enrolled at a local school.

Aunty Barbara suffers from arthritis in her back and knees, but such challenges haven't stopped her from furthering her education and working to improve her overall wellbeing. She has recently worked with AHV Life Coach, Samantha, to enrol in a Certificate IV in Community Services — and is now attending classes weekly.

After this course Aunty Barbara hopes to re-enter the workforce and continue to assist the Indigenous community, perhaps working with young offenders to get their lives back on track.

"I'm motivated by helping people", says Aunty Barbara. Her kindness and compassion for others inspires us all.

The theme for this year's NAIDOC Week is **'Because of her, we can!'** Check out the back cover for more details of our NAIDOC Week Family Day.

Our community continues to grow

GIPPSLAND TITLE TRANSFER

AHV has welcomed aboard tenants in 24 properties in the Gippsland region that have recently come under our ownership and management. The properties were formerly owned by Central Gippsland Aboriginal Health and Housing Co-operative and have been managed by another community housing agency, Community Housing Limited for a number of years.

The transfer of properties to AHV returns the properties to Aboriginal community control and ensures the properties

will continue to be available to meet the needs of the Aboriginal community into the future.

Gippsland and South East Metro Housing Officer, Steve, coordinated the transition, working closely with tenants and the former manager Community Housing Limited, to ensure a smooth transition.

We welcome our new tenants to the AHV community!

A very oceanic evening

MORE THAN A LANDLORD – MOVIE NIGHT

AHV tenants from the northern suburbs have kicked back and enjoyed movie snacks, bean bags and a screening of family favourite *Finding Dory*. The animated film was the centrepiece of our first ever Family Movie Night, held at the Preston City Hall on Friday 13 April as part of our More Than A Landlord (MTAL) program.

The evening provided AHV with the opportunity to promote our life coaching services and to strengthen links with local health, wellbeing and vocational services.

We would like to thank the City of Darebin for their support for the event. The City of Darebin provided the hall hire to AHV at a reduced rate.

MTAL is currently in its pilot stage and open to AHV tenants in the northern suburbs. The program offers AHV tenants the chance to work with a Life Coach to set and achieve personal goals, and improve overall wellbeing.

We're delighted to welcome aboard our first male Life Coach, Neil along with Trudi who commenced as a Life Skills Worker.

If you are an AHV tenant in the northern suburbs and would like to know more, call **9403 2100** or email wellbeing@ahvic.org.au.



Representatives from City of Whittlesea's Aboriginal Maternal and Child Health department

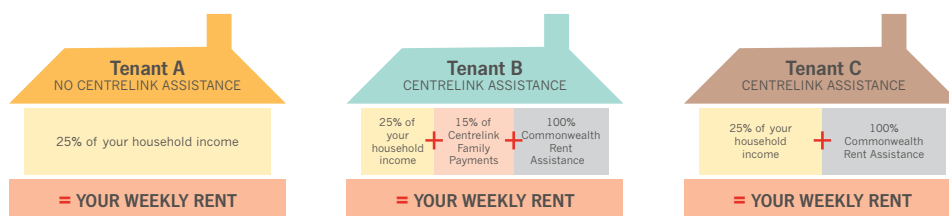
Annual Rent Review

HOW WE CALCULATE YOUR RENT

The annual Rent Review for 2018 is currently being conducted. We understand that for many tenants, rental payments represent their biggest household cost and changes to rent can impact on other essential household expenses. With this in mind, AHV conducts Fixed Rent Reviews annually — meaning your rent will not increase during each 12-month period (except under special conditions, i.e.: temporary absence).

Every tenant's rent is based on 25% of their primary household income. For tenants who receive Centrelink Family Payments, 15% of those payments are added. If a tenant receives Commonwealth Rent Assistance, 100% of that payment is added.

You may have already received a letter from AHV outlining information and documents we require so we can correctly calculate your rent.



Over the next three months tenants will receive additional letters regarding the Rent Review.

- All tenants will receive the next letter, which will indicate the Market Rent of your property (please note: this letter refers to Market Rent only and not Subsidised Rent).
- Tenants who are eligible for subsidised rent will receive a third letter confirming their new rent charge for the next 12-month period.

New rent charges will commence on the 3rd of September 2018.

Thank you to everyone who has already completed and sent back the required documents. **If you haven't yet responded, and believe you are eligible for subsidised rent, please send your documents back as soon as possible, to ensure we are able to calculate your rent correctly.**

If you have any queries about the rent review, please contact your Housing Officer.

Meeting growing needs

NEW PROPERTY DEVELOPMENTS NEAR COMPLETION

The finishing touches are being put on two brand new AHV properties in northern Melbourne, with the houses expected to be ready for tenants by mid-June.

With the demand for social housing from the Aboriginal community continuing to increase (particularly in metropolitan Melbourne), we are very pleased to be able to increase the number of properties in our portfolio, in locations of high demand.

Owning our properties means we have been able to develop and deliver programs of property construction, redevelopment, renewals, maintenance and minor works. The properties represent an important first example of the opportunities that title transfer and self-determination provide to AHV and the Aboriginal community.

While many of the properties transferred to AHV from the Director of Housing are in good condition, there are a number that are aged and deteriorating. To improve the quality of housing, it is important that over time, properties in poor condition are sold or demolished and new modern homes are built that better meet the needs of the Aboriginal community.

These are the first properties built since the title transfers commenced and the first built from proceeds of property sales. To think three years ago, when we only managed the properties on behalf of the Director of Housing, this was just not possible.

There are other developments in the pipeline that will provide an additional 13 units in the near future. We are confident that in the years to come AHV's property portfolio will continue to increase in number and in quality. These two properties are just the beginning!



COMING EVENT FOR YOUR DIARY

NAIDOC Family Day at The Farm

WEDNESDAY 11 JULY, 2018



This July will mark our 19th year celebrating NAIDOC Week at Collingwood Children's Farm. The theme of NAIDOC Week 2018 is 'Because of her, we can!' and our event provides an opportunity to honour the invaluable contributions that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women have made, and continue to make, to our communities, our families, our history and our nation.

This year we will also be celebrating the final round of title transfers of properties from the Victorian



Government to AHV. This third and final tranche of transfers will conclude a major step towards self-determination; a significant event for Aboriginal Victorians but also the broader community.

We invite you, your family and friends to join us for a fun filled day of music, dance, cultural and children's activities as we celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and self-determination through title transfer.



New Director of Operations

**WELCOME TO
PREN DODAJ**



We would like to welcome Pren Dodaj to the AHV team, who was recently appointed to the position of Director of Operations. Pren brings strong experience to AHV with a long history

of working in the community housing sector. He brings management and leadership experience to the Executive and Operations along with valuable skills and experience in tenancy, asset and maintenance management.

"I am excited and humbled to be leading a vibrant and capable team focussed on providing Aboriginal Victorians with secure, appropriate, and affordable housing as a pathway to better lives and stronger Aboriginal communities".

We look forward to Pren's important contribution to our organisation.

RECONCILIATION ON THE ROOFTOP

Monday 28 May, 2018

AHV, SNAICC and Yarra Libraries are hosting 'Reconciliation on the Rooftop' to celebrate Reconciliation Week. The event will include traditional dancers and key speakers who will explore Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures.

Keep an eye on our website and Facebook page for details on how to book your free ticket.

ARTWORK COMPETITION

Enter for your chance to win

There's still time for AHV young household members to enter the Annual Report Cover – Artwork Competition. For full details visit our website www.ahvic.org.au/about/artwork-competition-2018

The winner will receive a gift voucher and their artwork will feature on the cover of AHV's Annual Report for 2017/18.

Contact Paula on paula.s@ahvic.org.au or **9403 2116** with any queries or help submitting your artwork.