



Sharing our tenants' voices

The theme for this year's NAIDOC Week is *Voice. Treaty. Truth.*, and calls for the people of Australia to work together for a shared future.

Voice. Treaty. Truth. were three key elements to the reforms set out in the Uluru Statement from the Heart. These reforms represent the unified position of First Nations Australians.

The theme recognises the invaluable voice that Aboriginal Peoples provide, and the lore, culture and knowledge passed down for over 65,000 years.

"My advice for young people would be to listen and learn from your Elders."

—Aunty Sandra Myers.

AHV celebrates this voice and the rich stories of our tenants. One of these tenants is Aunty Sandra Myers, a Biripi Elder and mother of four who has spent her life helping others.

Aunty Sandra has lived in Victoria for most of her life but travelled extensively in her younger years. At 16 years of age she started work at what is now the John Hunter Hospital in Newcastle, initially starting off doing basic duties before being trained as a nurse.

After tenures at St Vincent's Hospitals in both Sydney and Melbourne as well as Austin Hospital, she began offering her nursing skills in the Australian Aid program. There she travelled through Southeast Asia providing health services to the local communities. "I loved working with the kids," says Aunty Sandra. Her nursing career spanned over 40 years.

She returned to Melbourne where over a period of time she fostered 29 children from establishments including Kew Cottages.

Aunty Sandra has maintained this independence, wisdom and compassion into her retirement. She participates in AHV's More Than A Landlord life coaching pilot program, where she works with Life Coach Sam to reach her health goals, improve her social wellbeing, and make better use of local support services that help her maintain independence at home.

She also maintains her connection to culture and country, joining the local Elders Motivated and Deadly group where she produces traditional craft and has a yarn with other Elders. She is also working on the development of a meeting place in her area.

Aunty Sandra has much to celebrate in her life, but her most profound moments involve something closer to home.

"I'm most proud of raising my family", she says of her four kids. These four kids – grown into happy and healthy adults – are just as proud of her.

Tenant Satisfaction Survey

EARLY BIRD WINNERS ANNOUNCED

We'd like to thank all AHV tenants who have completed and returned the Tenant Satisfaction Survey. We appreciate the responses from everyone who has taken the time to complete the survey. The survey results will help us to continue to improve our services.

Congratulations to the eight lucky winners of the early bird draw, who returned their completed surveys to CHIA NSW (who conducts the survey on behalf of AHV) — winners will soon be receiving a \$50 gift voucher.

THERE'S STILL TIME TO COMPLETE YOUR SURVEY!

We want to hear from you, and encourage all AHV tenants to complete the survey and send back before the end of March 2019. An additional 8 x \$25 gift vouchers will be drawn, for tenants who lodge their survey by the closing date (including tenants who have already lodged their survey).

We hope to reach our benchmark response of 30%. If we do, we will be drawing one lucky winner who will receive a \$200 gift voucher (drawn from all surveys received).

The survey provides an opportunity for AHV to receive feedback from tenants on our services. We really want to hear from you and hope you take this opportunity to have your say.

CAN'T FIND YOUR SURVEY FORM?

Don't worry — you can still complete the survey but you will need your unique code, so that CHIA NSW can recognise that they have received a survey from your address. We can arrange to post you another copy of the survey with the code included, or provide you with the code details so you can go on-line to complete the survey. Alternatively, your Housing Officer will come to your home with a lap top if you want to do the survey on-line, but do not have the available technology at home. If you need any assistance from us to complete the survey, please contact us by email or phone (see below for details).

We of course welcome feedback from tenants at any time. You can

- ⊙ visit our feedback and complaints page at our website (<http://ahvic.org.au/tenants/feedback-and-complaints>),
- ⊙ email us at info@ahvic.org.au or
- ⊙ call us on **(03) 9403 2100** during business hours.

Community gatherings in 2019

DISCUSSING ISSUES AND SHARING IDEAS

During 2017–18, AHV completed a series of community meetings with AHV tenants throughout Victoria. In 2019 we will invite AHV tenants and household members to join us to discuss important issues and share ideas for the future.

More details will follow as locations and venues are booked — so keep an eye on your letterbox, our website and Facebook.

SAVE THE DATE - AHV'S NAIDOC FAMILY DAY AT THE FARM



**VOICE
TREATY
TRUTH** 07 - 14
JULY 2019
Let's work together for a shared future.

AHV will be hosting their annual NAIDOC Family Day at The Farm at Collingwood Children's Farm on Wednesday 10 July. Keep your eye on our Facebook page and the next edition of Mia Mia for more details and for other events in your area.



Supporting AHV tenants to celebrate Christmas

CHRISTMAS TOY APPEAL 2018

In the fourth year of our Christmas Toy Appeal, we were thrilled to be able to distribute toys to over 750 children across 300 families. This year, we were also fortunate to receive a donation from Coles, which allowed us to purchase, pack and deliver small Christmas hampers to over 180 Elders in metro and regional areas.

AHV Housing Officers and Wellbeing Program staff were busy delivering gifts and hampers to tenants throughout December, as well as a number of Aboriginal Cooperatives and organisations.

We were once again reminded of the generosity of the broader community, with over 100 individual supporters and a number of existing and new schools and businesses. We would like to thank all of our supporters, including: Chris from Between the Pipes, Bace Building Services, Clifton Hill Pharmacy, Curves Fitzroy North, The Walt Disney Company Australia and New Zealand, Fitzroy North Primary School, Indigenous Business Australia, Management Advantage Inc., Melbourne

Design Studio, Merri Creek Primary School, Toot Toot Toys and Toy Network. We would also like to send a big shout out to our local volunteers who helped promote the Toy Appeal by letter dropping and pack toys and hampers; Timothy, Rena, Heather and Jan.

We hope to distribute even more toys in 2019 and to extend our reach to more Elders in the community through our hamper drive.



AHV's Colleen and Amanda with a massive donation from Chris, a contractor for AHV



The van packed with toys and hampers headed to Mildura, Bendigo and Shepparton



AHV staff with toy bags — ready for delivery

Visiting AHV's green thumbs

AHV'S GARDENING COMPETITION

Over the next month we will be visiting tenants who registered for our 'Spring to Summer' Gardening Competition. Our Housing Officers are looking forward to checking out some of our tenants' gardens. We will announce winners in the next edition of *Mia Mia*. Winners will receive a Bunnings Gift Voucher to put towards the upkeep of their gardens.



AHV's Aunty Barbara and Colleen visited Aunty Shirley and her garden

AHV welcomes first home buyers program

HOMESVIC FOR ABORIGINAL VICTORIANS

AHV is working together with the Victorian Government on an initiative to make it easier for Aboriginal Victorians to purchase their first home. HomesVic for Aboriginal Victorians offers up to 35% proportional beneficial interest in first homes purchased by Aboriginal people. This Government contribution reduces the amount required for a home loan.

Are you eligible?

If you can say yes to all the following criteria, you may be eligible to participate in the HomesVic program*.

- ⦿ Are you of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent, and able to provide a 'Confirmation of Aboriginality' (COA)?
- ⦿ Do you have a gross yearly income of up to \$75,000 for singles or up to \$95,000 for couples or families**?
- ⦿ Are you able to contribute a 5% deposit of the purchase price of the property from genuine savings?
- ⦿ Have you been residing in Victoria for at least the past two years?
- ⦿ Are you purchasing the dwelling as your principal place of residence?

HomesVic for Aboriginal Victorians is a component of the Government's general HomesVic shared equity pilot.

Please call one of our representatives to learn more.

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* For a full list of general program terms, conditions and eligibility criteria, visit:

www.vic.gov.au/affordablehousing/buying-a-house-in-victoria/homesvic/am-i-eligible

**Figures are subject to change as per annual adjustments to the Average Weekly Earnings.

