



Communique

Aboriginal Housing Victoria Board Meeting

Thursday 26 September 2019

The Board of Directors of Aboriginal Housing Victoria (AHV) held their ninth Board meeting for the calendar year on Thursday 26 September, 2019 in Melbourne.

1. HomesVic for Aboriginal Victorians

The Board was pleased to note that a daughter of an AHV tenant has reached “pre-approval” stage for a *HomesVic* home loan, with the next step being provisional approval from the *HomesVic* administrative team. If the applicant receives a provisional letter of approval and attends the mandatory information session, she will be able to purchase a home under the program.

This welcome news coincides with a greater sense of readiness from other potential Aboriginal first home buyers. A number of people are indicating they are getting closer to applying, after making concerted efforts to save the required 5% deposit. In the meantime, our *HomesVic* representatives are maintaining contact and providing dedicated support to individuals who have expressed an interest in the program.

The representatives are also continuing their promotional and advocacy activities, including organising community visits and providing advice to the Victorian Government on how to increase participation by Aboriginal Victorians.

If you are interested in finding out more HomesVic for Aboriginal Victorians, please visit our webpage: <http://ahvic.org.au/communications-and-resources/homesvic-for-aboriginal-victorians>

2. Victorian Aboriginal Housing and Homelessness Framework (VAHHF)

The Board noted that the VAHHF Steering Committee endorsed the draft Aboriginal Housing and Homelessness Framework (subject to minor amendments) at their meeting on 12 September 2019, including high level governance and implementation directions.

The Framework will shortly be presented to relevant Ministers. When finalised, the document will be uploaded to the AHV website, and hard copies will be available on request.

3. Aboriginal Housing Forum

AHV also convened the fifth Aboriginal Housing Forum on 12 September 2019, which was attended by Aboriginal housing organisations from across Victoria. The forum included:

- an information session on homelessness reforms presented by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS); and
- a discussion on the housing management modelling process.

AHV is keen to continue to host the Aboriginal Housing Forums, as they provide a great opportunity for Aboriginal organisations who provide housing to Aboriginal Victorians, to meet and share their experiences and knowledge. We are therefore hopeful that DHHS will provide further funding to allow the forums to continue.