



Communique

Aboriginal Housing Victoria Board Meeting

Friday 30 August 2019

The Board of Directors of Aboriginal Housing Victoria (AHV) held their eighth Board meeting for the calendar year on Friday 30 August, 2019 in Melbourne.

1. Victorian Aboriginal Housing and Homelessness Framework (VAHMF)

The Board considered the progress of the Victorian Aboriginal Housing and Homelessness Framework. The Board noted that a draft will soon be presented to the Steering Committee overseeing the delivery of the Framework, for consideration.

The draft Framework has a 20 year horizon and contains immediate proposals/actions for Government's consideration, as well as proposals for sustained, longer term structural reform.

The development of the Framework has been deeply informed by the voices and experiences of Aboriginal people. As part of the consultation process for the Framework, AHV hosted the Victorian Aboriginal Housing and Homelessness Summit on 5 April 2019. Over 100 participants attended the Summit, including Victorian Aboriginal Peak bodies and their representatives, Victorian Aboriginal Cooperatives, Aboriginal service providers, government, industry, and housing and homelessness experts, and Aboriginal people who shared their own stories of homelessness and insecure housing.

The Framework will also be rich in data and will make a compelling case for urgent and sustained change in the way housing services are designed and delivered to Aboriginal people.

2. AHV Arrears Strategy review

The Board reviewed AHV's arrears management strategies.

Rent is the main source of revenue for AHV. Failure to recover rent directly impacts on AHV's ability to continue to deliver its services and to assist Aboriginal Victorians with their housing needs.

The Board noted that the vast majority of AHV tenants pay their rent on time. Given the level of disadvantage experienced by many AHV tenants and their families, this commitment to maintaining rental payments reflects very positively on AHV's tenant population.

The Board also noted the importance of early intervention, particularly for potentially vulnerable tenants who may be experiencing issues that directly impact on their ability to maintain their rental payments.

The sooner that AHV's Housing Officers can make contact with potentially vulnerable tenants and assist them with accessing support where necessary, the better the outcome for the

tenant, in being able to sustain her/his tenancy and avoiding escalation of arrears before they become large, problematic debts.

3. Annual General meeting and end of year financial reporting

The Board approved the date and time of the AHV Annual General Meeting.

The Board also approved three reports to be submitted to the Housing Registrar, as part of AHV's regulatory reporting requirements:

- Report on performance against the 2018-19 Business Plan;
- Report on Housing Registrar's Key Performance Measures 2018-19; and
- the AHV 2019-20 Business Plan .