**Communique**

**Aboriginal Housing Victoria Board Meeting**

**Tuesday 10 December 2019**

The Board of Directors of Aboriginal Housing Victoria (AHV) held their thirteenth Board meeting for the calendar year on Tuesday 10 December, 2019 in Melbourne.

## Victorian Aboriginal Housing and Homelessness Framework

The AHV Board of Directors approved the Victorian Aboriginal Housing and Homelessness Framework Aboriginal Executive council and the Senior Officers group on Aboriginal Affairs has endorsed the Victorian Aboriginal Housing and Homelessness Framework at their meeting on 10 October 2019, including high level governance and implementation directions.

The Framework has been presented to the Premier and relevant Ministers, with proposed governance arrangements to be tested further.

## Christmas Toy Appeal and Elders Hampers

The Board discussed progress with AHV’s toy drive for Aboriginal tenants and families and hampers for Aboriginal Elders.

The Board once again thanked Coles/Westfarmers who for the second year running supported our Elders Christmas Hampers. This year 250 hampers were distributed to Elders living in our homes across Victoria.

As a result of the generosity of the local North Fitzroy community and AHV supporters we expect to distribute toys and clothing to more than 700 Aboriginal families across Victoria. The Board in particular would like to additionally acknowledge:

* Organisations that run toy drives include Indigenous Business Australia, Hunt & Hunt Lawyers and Glen Eira Council.
* Red Cross who have provided a warehouse space where we can pack and sort gifts during our temporary move.
* Staff at Indigenous Business Australia who provided over 40+ volunteer hours to pack toys. We have received donated products from Lush, AFL and The Walt Disney Company for their donated products. All those who contributed to the online Simply Giving campaign
* Goulburn Valley Grammar School, Ascot Templeton Group and Hunt & Hunt Lawyers for their generous donations

## Christmas office closure

The Board approved the closure of AHV offices between Christmas Day and New Year’s Day. AHV offices will re-open on Thursday 2 January 2020. As in previous years, systems will be in place to manage any emergency tenancy management issues that may occur during the period.

If you require maintenance services during the Christmas/New Year period, please call the AHV Call Centre on 9403 2100. Maintenance calls will be automatically diverted to the after-hours service and an on-call staff member will be available to respond to any emergency requests.

The Board and Staff of AHV wish all our tenants a safe and happy Christmas and holiday season. The Board extend seasons greetings to Aboriginal communities across Victoria and thank our supporters who continue to advocate and support Aboriginal people to access safe and secure housing.