ABORIGINAL HOUSING VICTORIA

Communique
Aboriginal Housing Victoria Board Meetings
Thursday 3 February 2022 and Thursday 2 March 2022

The Board of Directors of Aboriginal Housing Victoria (AHV) held their first and second Board meetings for the calendar year on Thursday 3 February 2022 (out of session) and Thursday 3 March 2022, via videoconference.

Out of session meeting

An out of session Board meeting was convened on Thursday 3 February 2022, for the Board to consider and approve the revised AHV Delegations of Authority. The document includes financial delegations; Human Resources delegations; and specific delegations relating to the Aboriginal Rapid Housing Response Program (ARHRP).

State Government funding provided through the ARHRP, is delivering maintenance and upgrades to Aboriginal community owned properties across Victoria. At the meeting, the Board also approved the revised ARHRP Delivery Plan and Program Budget; revisions were necessary given the delays incurred by COVID-19 lockdowns during 2021.

The AHV Board also approved a Memorandum of Understanding between AHV and the Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission (VEOHRC), to guide our proposed collaborative work in relation to a rights education project for Victorian Aboriginal renters.

The objectives of the partnership between AHV and VEOHRC include:

- building the capacity of VEOHRC staff to deliver meaningful and culturally appropriate information and human rights education for Aboriginal renters in Victoria; and
- providing Aboriginal renters with key information about their human rights and the obligations of private rental providers; and
- ensure that Aboriginal people who experience private rental market discrimination, understand and have access to remedies, through reporting and complaint making.

SHGF Housing for Aboriginal Victorians

AHV is currently preparing a submission for the SHGF *Housing for Aboriginal Victorians* funding round. As part of its submission, AHV is currently looking to potentially partner with volume builders to purchase new housing, and/or modify existing houses. Housing types may include both detached houses and townhouses that may be suitable for AHV and its renters. Subject to funding, the homes will be built across Victoria on AHV's existing land, and potentially on land to be purchased.

Improving Homelessness Services and Outcomes for Aboriginal Victorians Project

KPMG was the successful tenderer for the project and commenced work in October 2021. KPMG submitted their Final Report for the *Improving Homelessness Services and Outcomes for Aboriginal Victorians Project* (IHSOAV) in December 2021, and it was well received by the Project Steering Committee.

At the Steering Committee meeting for IHSOAV held 1 February 2021, the Committee moved to continue to support the project by developing the plan for the first stage of implementation presented in the report. The Terms of Reference for the Steering Committee have been updated to reflect this and will be presented to the Aboriginal Housing and Homelessness Forum for approval at the 10 March 2022 Forum meeting.

20 Year Vision for the Aboriginal Housing Sector in Victoria Project

Karabena Consulting Group was contracted by AHV to develop a 20-year vision for the Aboriginal Housing Sector in Victoria. The project commenced in October 2021, and was originally due for completion in February 2022. The short timeframe was considered necessary in order for the Vision to inform the proposed Aboriginal Housing and Homelessness Summit and Victoria's Closing the Gap Housing Sector Strengthening Plan. As both the Summit and the jurisdictional sector strengthening plans have been postponed, the timeline for the Sector Vision project can now be relaxed, to allow more time for stakeholder engagement and consultation.

Successful consultation workshops have already been conducted with the Aboriginal Housing and Homelessness Forum and Traditional Owner groups, and these have provided rich insights to progress the project. Three more consultation workshops are scheduled during March 2022.