**Communique**

**Aboriginal Housing Victoria Board Meeting**

 **Thursday 12 June 2025**

The Board of Directors of Aboriginal Housing Victoria (AHV) held their third Board meeting for the calendar year on Thursday 12 June 2025.

## AHV Board Strategic Planning session

The Board held an all-day Strategic Planning session at Dardi Munwurro in High Street Preston on 27 March 2025. Following detailed discussions, Board Directors agreed to the following strategic priorities:

* AHV’s growth target is to build or purchase 100 additional social housing dwellings per year subject to sufficient capital growth funding being available from Government.
* AHV to actively pursue the following opportunities to grow housing for Aboriginal people with the aim of scaling the programs to business as usual over the next 5 years:
* additional social housing through government asset and management transfers and
* social housing management through development partnerships with mainstream registered housing agencies and private developers
* supported housing developments on an ownership or management basis through partnerships which may be either long-term social housing or transitional housing
* affordable housing on an ownership, management and consultancy basis.
* AHV to actively pursue opportunities to deliver home ownership support, including community engagement/marketing and applicant support services and delivering a rent to buy pilot and a renter purchase program.
* AHV to monitor the modular housing market and explore opportunities to incorporate modular housing into future developments. Within 3 years, undertake a feasibility assessment of incorporating modular housing into business-as-usual developments.

## Renter Home Purchase policy and Rent Setting policy

The Board approved the general policy parameters for an AHV Renter Home Purchase policy and the AHV revised Rent Setting policy, for new tenancies commencing on or after 5 January 2026. Work will now progress on operationalising both policies, which will include comprehensive communication and promotion strategies for our renters and the Aboriginal community more broadly.

## Other policy reviews

The Board also approved the following revised policy documents:

* AHV Housing Standards. Updated in the context of recent and proposed changes to the Residential Tenancies Act 1997.
* Contract Management policy. To support consistent, high-quality internal practices relating to negotiating, executing and managing contracts and agreements.

## NAIDOC Family Day

The Board discussed this year’s AHV’s NAIDOC Family Day, which will be held at the Aborigines Advancement League on Thursday 10 July from 10:30 am to 2:00 pm.

This will be our first NAIDOC Family Day not held at Collingwood Children’s Farm. The Farm has advised that they will not be hosting any major events this year. The League provides for some other opportunities such as greater accessibility by public transport, additional car parking, and the ability to have more children’s activities.

Activities that have already been booked include native reptile handling, traditional weaving, boomerang painting, football clinic, a netball clinic (pending confirmation from Netball Victoria), and boomerang demonstrations.  We are also currently looking into a soccer clinic, jumping castles and a mobile petting zoo. Yarn Strong Sista will facilitate Aboriginal face painting, supported by volunteers from Juno.

Planned entertainment includes performances by Mitch Tambo, Yirrmal, Indigenous Outreach Projects, and the Djirri Djirri dancers. Confirmed stallholders include representatives from the First Peoples’ Assembly, Djirra, SNAICC, VACSAL, Indigenous Business Australia, Road Safety Education, and Kids First Australia.

AHV has submitted for grant funding from 3 different sources, to support the delivery of another successful NAIDOC event, and the outcomes for these submissions are expected shortly.

Further updates will be provided on our Facebook Page, as details are confirmed.

## Community consultation

The Board received a report on the 2025 renter and community consultations, which were completed in May 2025, following on from the eight events held in 2024.  Our recent consultations were held in Gathering Places, ACCOs and other community locations in: Broadmeadows, Echuca, Frankston, Geelong, Morwell, Ringwood, Shepparton, and Warrnambool.

Improving maintenance, as well as the need for more housing for mob, were consistent issues raised at each renter session. In these discussions, AHV confirmed that we do not receive any ongoing funding for housing or housing support services, and that AHV’s funding is solely from the rents received (other than time specific project funding).

Other issues discussed included AHV’s collaboration with other Aboriginal organisations, in advocating to State and Federal governments for more housing for mob, in particular through AHV’s leadership and secretariat role in the Aboriginal Housing and Homelessness Forum.

Our online feedback portal for those who were unable to attend community consultations remains open. Details can be found [here](https://ahvic.org.au/tenants/community-engagement-and-development).