**Communique**

**Aboriginal Housing Victoria Board Meeting**

 **Thursday 4 September 2025**

The Board of Directors of Aboriginal Housing Victoria (AHV) held their seventh Board meeting for the calendar year on Thursday 4 September 2025.

## Out of session meeting

The AHV Board met out of session on 14 August 2025 for an in-camera discussion on the CEO’s contract, and to consider quarterly reporting of key business priorities.

## Regional Housing Growth Plans

The Board noted that Aboriginal Housing and Homelessness 10+ Year Regional Housing Growth Plans (Regional Plans) have been funded through Closing the Gap. The development of these plans will be led by ACCOs and Traditional Owner groups within five specified regions, (Hume, Melbourne Metro, Loddon Mallee, Gippsland, and Barwon Southwest & Grampians).

These plans will build on current regional strengths and goals around housing and homelessness provision. AHV’s Regional Planning team has met with several AHHF member groups both individually and in regional-based collectives to gauge interest and explore regional strengths, needs and goals. Several AHHF members in each of the five regions have expressed strong interest in aligning work and collaborating with others in their region to maximise positive outcomes for their communities.

## Aboriginal Private Rental Assistance Program (APRAP)

The fifth APRAP Forum was held on 14 August 2025 in Bendigo, on Dja Dja Wurrung Country. The event brought together representatives from 18 APRAP provider organisations across the state.

Key presentations included:

* Heather Holst, Commissioner for Residential Tenancies, who presented insights from the 2024 Private Rental Snapshot.
* Rental Dispute Resolution Victoria (RDRV), who introduced their new service and outlined its role in supporting renters and rental providers.
* Bendigo & District Aboriginal Co-operative (BDAC), who provided an update on their housing and homelessness programs.

APRAP forums provide valuable knowledge sharing and collaboration opportunities among providers and contribute to the continued strengthening of the APRAP network.

## Community consultation and engagement

The Board received an updated on AHV community engagement activities. AHV’s Renter Guide: *Our Shared Commitments* (previously called the Customer Service Charter) is being distributed to all AHV households with the next *Mia Mia* newsletter in September 2025. This document informs renters of AHV’s service commitments and renter expectations. It outlines the pathways to take if renters are not satisfied, or if these commitments are not upheld. The actions and behaviours of staff and all contractors engaged by AHV are covered by the Renter Guide.

The Board noted that a summary of the community consultation findings conducted between February and May 2025 will also be included in the next edition of the *Mia Mia* newsletter. Planning has commenced for the next round of consultations.

## Rent to Buy program

The Board noted that the Department of Treasury and Finance is developing a rent-to-buy program for Aboriginal households, which they plan to launch in December 2025.

The program is a pilot scheme and will provide an opportunity for purchase of 20-30 homes, which will be initially acquired or developed by the successful organisation selected following a submission process.

The program will enable households to purchase after a 5-year rental period. Rents will be capped at effectively 75% of market value or 30% of household income, whichever is the lesser. Support will be provided to households who participate in the program to assist with financial budgeting.

The program is targeting households in the lower-moderate to median household income range.