Dignity, culture and housing: First Nations perspectives on homelessness

Presented by Aboriginal Housing Victoria



Acknowledgement of Country



AHV Property on Wurundjeri Country

Aboriginal Housing Victoria

Australia's largest non-government Aboriginal housing organisation

A 45-year history of Aboriginal self-determination

An Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation (ACCO) — owned, led and governed by Aboriginal people. AHV is a ***proud*** agency – ***proud*** of the history and culture of the Aboriginal peoples of Victoria, ***proud*** of the Aboriginal people of Victoria who we serve, and ***proud*** of our unique identity and heritage.

Home to more than 4,000 Aboriginal Victorians today

Providing culturally safe, affordable and secure housing for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Victorians.

Victoria's lead agency for Aboriginal housing and homelessness policy reform

AHV leads *Mana-na woorn-tyeen maar-takoort*, partnering with Government to secure the resources and reforms Aboriginal Victorians need.

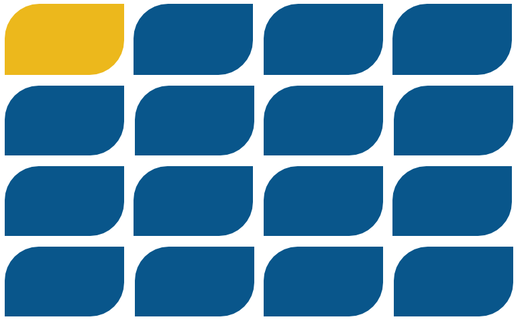
Current Landscape

For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Victoria



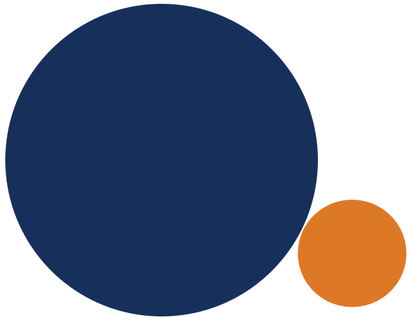
8000 households

Close to **8000** Aboriginal applicants on the **Victorian Housing Register** waiting for social housing.



1 in 4

Aboriginal people in Victoria accessed **Specialist Homelessness Services** in the last 12 months.



12.5x access rate

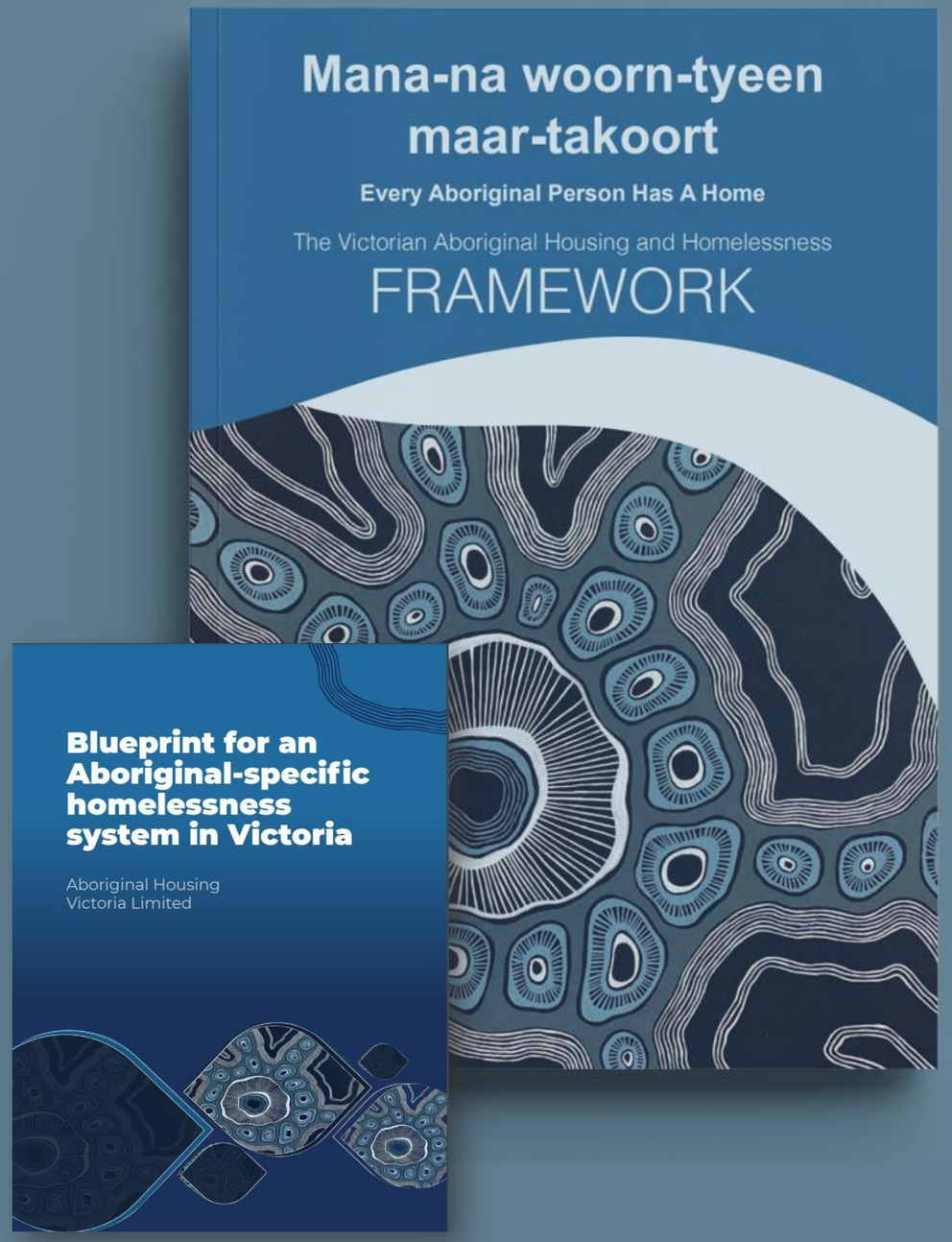
Aboriginal Victorian's will access Homelessness Services annually at a rate **12.5x the rate of non-Aboriginal people in Victoria.**

A self-determined response to the housing crisis

Mana-na woorn-tyeen maar-takoort meaning **Every Aboriginal Person Has a Home** in Gunditjmara language.

Key objectives of the Framework:

1. Secure housing improves life outcomes.
2. Building supply to meet the needs of a growing Aboriginal population.
3. Opening doors to home ownership and private rental.
4. An Aboriginal focused homeless service system.
5. A capable system that delivers Aboriginal housing needs.



Aboriginal-led Homelessness Reform in Victoria

The **Blueprint for an Aboriginal Homelessness System in Victoria** provides a roadmap for a homelessness service system that is self-determined, community led, culturally safe and responsive to the unique needs of Aboriginal Victorians experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness.

It identifies the **key priorities enablers** as well as a **practical plan** on how to implement the new system.

Stewardship

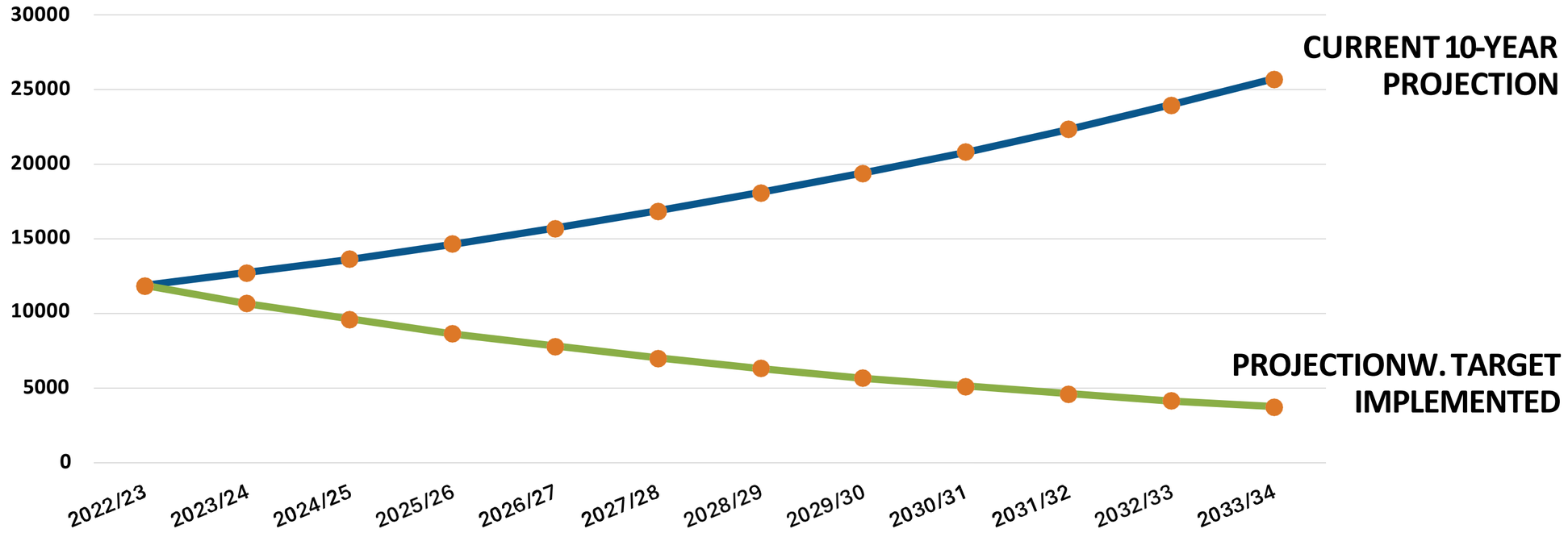
"A devolved approach to decision making, funding, monitoring, planning and management of the Aboriginal homelessness system in Victoria, which is shared between Community and Government."



A yarning circle between community and government on Wurundjeri Country

An Aboriginal Homelessness Target

Objective 4.1.2 *of Mana-na woorn-tyeen maar-takoort* proposes the development of a target to reduce Aboriginal homelessness by **10 per cent per annum compounding for 10 years**



"Outcomes should be the ultimate determinant of success as opposed to programmatic or funding increases" – Darren Smith, CEO of AHV & Chair, Victorian Aboriginal Housing and Homelessness Forum



AHV's Specialised Housing Programs

Arc

People leaving prison

Baggarrook

Aboriginal women transitioning from prison

Housing First

Young people leaving care

Ngarra Jarranounith Place

Healing and behaviour change

Arc

People leaving prison

Baggarrook

Aboriginal women transitioning from prison

Arc Program

Named to signify the arc of new beginnings

- AHV provides culturally-safe housing and tenancy management
- Vacro provide reintegration and specialist support

Baggarrook

Meaning ‘woman’ in Woi-Wurrung language

- AHV provides culturally-safe housing and tenancy management
- Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service provides culturally safe support, advocacy and case management

Housing First

Young people leaving care

- Housing and support services working together
- Early intervention when a tenancy is at risk
- Confidence, independence and lasting housing security



Young AHV Renters at the annual AHV NAIDOC Family Day



Ngarra Jarranounith Place

Healing and behaviour change

- Up to 16 weeks residential accommodation
- Dardi Munwurro provide healing and behaviour-change support
- AHV provide specialist rental housing management
- The pathway must continue beyond the program

The pathway to a long-term home

- Plan early
- Person’s preferences, culture and connection
- Housing management and specialist support working together
- Support through the move and settling-in period
- A clear way to reconnect with help





What does future success look like:

- Invest in the whole pathway
- More specialised programs
- Aboriginal-led design and partnerships
- Sustainable funding for housing and support coordination
- Access to long-term housing options
- Measure stability over time