

# Homes Victoria

## ABORIGINAL PRIVATE RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

April 2021

### Background

The Aboriginal Private Rental Assistance Program (APRAP) is funded by Homes Victoria and delivered by Aboriginal Controlled Community Organisations, to support Aboriginal people who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness to either maintain their existing private rental tenancy or to secure a new private rental tenancy.

The program was co-designed by Homes Victoria and Victorian Aboriginal Homelessness and Community Housing Organisations to address issues faced by Aboriginal people that can impact on their access to private rental properties and ability to maintain a tenancy.

APRAP is a two year program funded from 1 December 2020 to 30 November 2022. This initiative will support 950 Aboriginal households over two years to maintain existing tenancies or establish new tenancies in the private rental market.

### Service components

#### APRAP brokers

Private rental brokers generate private rental access opportunities and capacity to maintain tenancies, rather than direct client support. For example, their role includes advocating for at risk tenancies and negotiating payment plans: building relationships with real estate agents and landlords: ensuring eligible households are receiving relevant government concessions and payments: and building relationships with housing and homelessness services in the local area to ensure better access to resources for Aboriginal households.

#### APRAP Plus

APRAP Plus is an outreach support for households who need additional help to establish or maintain their housing. APRAP Plus positions work alongside the APRAP broker to provide time limited case management support to households.

#### Brokerage

Brokerage funds are available to maintain or establish tenancies and can pay for rent in advance, as well as white goods and other items needed to establish a home.

#### Statewide Co-ordinator

An APRAP statewide co-ordinator, auspiced at Aboriginal Housing Victoria, undertakes capacity building activities to support the APRAP positions, enhance practice and facilitate collaboration between APRAP and other relevant stakeholders.

### Eligibility

APRAP is for Aboriginal households who are at risk of losing their current private rental tenancy, are currently experiencing homelessness but can be sustainably housed in private rental accommodation with short term assistance, or who are able to sustain private rental but need assistance with the transition from crisis, transitional or social housing.

Aboriginal households who are financially disadvantaged or victims of family violence are eligible for APRAP. A person is financially disadvantaged if they have no income, if the main source of income is a Centrelink benefit or if their income is insufficient to sustain their personal financial commitments and they have defaulted in the payment of rent, utility bills or other personal debts.

## Program locations

APRAP is available in two metropolitan Melbourne areas and three regional areas.

Direct referral can be made to APRAP providers below. Referrals can be made through a range of sources, including homelessness access points, local real estate agents, emergency relief workers, financial counsellors and other support services.

### APRAP Providers

Aboriginal PRAP Provider	Area	Contact
Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency (VACCA)	Western Melbourne	75-79 Watton Street, Werribee Phone: 9742 8300
Victorian Aboriginal Community Services Association Ltd (VACSAL)	North Eastern Melbourne	496 High Street, Northcote Phone: 9416 4266
Murray Valley Aboriginal Co-operative	Mallee	87 Latje Road, Robinvale Phone: 5026 3353
Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency (VACCA)	East Gippsland	21 Hazelwood Road, Morwell Phone: 5135 6055
Bendigo and District Aboriginal Co-operative (BDAC)	Loddon	119 Prouses Rd, North Bendigo Phone: 5442 4947
Njernda Aboriginal Corporation		74 Annesley Street, Echuca Phone: 5480 6252

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In this document, 'Aboriginal' refers to both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Available at Department of Families, Fairness and Housing Funded Agency Channel

<https://fac.dhhs.vic.gov.au/aboriginal-private-rental-assistance-program-aprap-information-sheet>