

"I had grown used to the paradoxical nature of my existence, I'd drop in at one of the hostels for a feed, and there'd be a message for me to ring a number or to be at the airport to catch this flight or that".

- Actor, author, activist, and late Aboriginal elder Uncle Jack Charles.



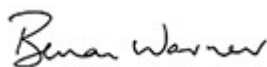
Dear Friends,

Launch Housing and its predecessor organisations have a history within the historically rugged neighbourhoods of Fitzroy and Collingwood. From my desk on Oxford Street, I cannot help but wonder about the stories this one-time factory walls hold.

The streets surrounding are steeped in a rich First Nations history. In 1976, the Victorian Aboriginal Co-operative Limited began on Smith Street to provide local housing and welfare services to the Aboriginal community of Melbourne. Just a stone's throw away on Gertrude Street, the **Aboriginal Housing Board of Victoria** was established in 1981. The nearby Builder Arms Hotel played a significant role in the late **Uncle Jack Charles' story**. A survivor of the stolen generation, he discovered his family in his late teens at what was known as "the Black Pub of Melbourne" during the 1950s.

Despite comprising **only 3.2% of the Australian population**, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people represented 28% of clients supported by specialist homelessness services in 2021-22. We know the people we work with are the experts in their own lives, and we are committed to walking alongside them to achieve the best outcomes. This is one reason that today, I am announcing Launch Housing supports a **'Yes' vote for the First Nations Voice to Parliament** in our Constitution.

Yours truly,



BEVAN WARNER
Chief Executive Officer

Why Launch Housing is saying 'Yes'



First Nations Australians represent [about 1% of Victoria's population but an astounding 10% of our clients](#). As one of Victoria's leading Specialist Homelessness Services, Launch Housing aims to tackle the root causes of structural inequality contributing to homelessness. Our 'Yes' stance on the First Nations Voice to Parliament aligns with Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations we partner with daily.

The Voice to Parliament is a vital step towards reconciliation. The first of three components from the [Uluru Statement from the Heart](#) aims to establish a First Nations Voice enshrined in the Constitution. This independent, representative advisory body will provide Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples with a permanent means to advise the Australian Parliament and Government on matters that affect them.

Understanding the First Nations Voice to Parliament's history and significance can foster a more inclusive and informed conversation. Learn more [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#).

Take Action this month in Naarm (Melbourne)



This year's [National Reconciliation Week](#) theme is "Be a Voice for Generations", prompting us to consider the impact we can all have on promoting reconciliation.

Knowledge is power! Here are five ways which to expand your knowledge about the rich and ongoing history of the world's oldest living culture right here in our city.

- Visit [Bunjilaka Aboriginal Cultural Centre](#)
- See 19th-century drawings by [William Barak at the Ian Potter Centre](#)
- Discover Aboriginal Victoria at the [Koorie Heritage Trust](#)
- Take an [Aboriginal Heritage Walk](#) at Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria
- Enjoy some [contemporary Aboriginal cuisine](#).

National Reconciliation Week

Illuminating conversations at the Human Rights Arts and Film Festival



Launch Housing's Chief Impact Officer Laura Mahoney recently joined [CoHealth](#) CEO Nicole Bartholomeusz and researcher, mentor and Education First Youth Foyer alumni Brea Dorsett for an illuminating panel discussion at ACMI following the screening of the groundbreaking documentary [Dark Days](#) as part of the [Human Rights Arts and Film Festival](#). The film offered a raw glimpse into the lives of a community living within New York City's underground train tunnels during the 1990s.

The good news is that [homelessness is solvable](#), and the solutions are known. As Laura mentioned, "They're tried and tested internationally. We've just seen an example of that in that documentary. Finding people housing allows people to focus on the rest of their life and what they want to do to move forward."

Join Melbourne Zero

Melbourne stories told from the heart



A smile from eyes behind a face mask. Distant friendly exchanges between neighbours. Spotting teddy bears and rainbows in the nooks and crannies of local streets. On 19 May, the launch of [Community Capsule](#), Melbourne's first modern-day time capsule, is an event not to be missed.

Come along to Fracture Gallery at Federation Square and join Launch Housing Chief Executive Bevan Warner as he shares insights on homelessness throughout the pandemic and how these learnings have sparked change through the [Melbourne Zero](#) movement. The Community Capsule Exhibition launch offers a fantastic line-up of speakers and a performance by the [Royal Melbourne Hospital Scrub Choir](#) – a lockdown initiative that brought music therapy and joy alongside images from photographers [Bri Hammond](#) and Julie Ewing ([Lifeworks Photography](#)), as well as artefacts from the [State Library of Victoria](#)'s collection.

Buy tickets today

Thanks to your support, Haryath and her daughter are home.



**Haryath and Arya
are in a much
better place now.**

**Launch
HOUSING**

**IT'S TIME TO END
HOMELESSNESS**

There has been a troubling rise in homelessness caused by domestic violence - now one of the main reasons people seek support from Launch Housing.

We're here to offer survivors a secure home and a caring community to rebuild their lives - people like Haryath, who first experienced homelessness when her violent husband turned his temper against their newborn daughter, Arya.

Thanks to [kind donations from supporters](#) like you, we supported Haryath and her daughter into a safe, affordable home of their own, connected them with a lovely kindergarten and provided ongoing support to help them rebuild their lives with hope for the future.

Please donate to our [Winter Appeal today](#) so we can offer more women and their children the safety, security and support they need and deserve.

[Donate today](#)

Connect with us on social

If you want to learn more about our work and celebrate the little milestones we achieve every day, check out the recent posts on our social media accounts.

