

# POLICY PLATFORMS

(amended as at 7 August 2017)



# THE JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF VICTORIA

## POLICY PLATFORM 2010 (revised on 7 August 2017)

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## **1. Preamble**

The Australian Jewish community, of which the Jews of Victoria are such a vital part, differs markedly from other Diaspora Jewish communities as Jews were here right from the beginning of Australian nationhood and have been integral partners in the development of modern Australia.

Jews are at home in this multicultural nation built on migration, a state of affairs that has not always been the Jewish experience elsewhere. More than that, our community has made a recognised, remarkable and perhaps disproportionate contribution to the Australian way of life. Through the efforts of talented and hardworking individuals and groups, the Australian Jewish community is proud of the part it has played in the many cultural, political, social and economic achievements of this great diverse country.

Long the largest Jewish community in Australia, Victorian Jews have played a major part in this wonderful story as military leaders, Governors-General, judges, philanthropists, captains of industry, presidents of football clubs and 'ordinary' men and women. Thus Jewish lives, beliefs and traditions have helped to shape both Victoria and Australia.

## **2. Our Mandate**

Our constitution sets out the aims and objectives of the Jewish Community Council of Victoria.

In essence, our mandate is:

- to be the roof body and official voice of the Jewish community of Victoria on lay matters
- to advance its unity
- to work to achieve its goals
- to partner others to ensure the continuity and development of our community's religious, spiritual, cultural and social heritage.

Through consultation, advocacy and working with government, other faith and ethnic communities, the media, service providers and the general public, the JCCV seeks to achieve the following outcomes:

- A better society by promoting understanding and cooperation between all faiths
- Facilitation of harmony and positive relationships between the various elements of the Victorian Jewish community and between our community and the larger community

- A positive perception of Jews in Victoria
- Greater understanding of and respect for the Jewish way of life
- A thriving local Jewish community
- A safer local Jewish community
- Zero community tolerance of racism in general and antisemitism in particular
- Contributing to social justice in Victoria
- Wider knowledge and appreciation of the Shoah (Holocaust) and its lessons
- In partnership with the State Zionist Council of Victoria:
  - A more sophisticated public understanding of Israel's efforts to achieve peace and security
  - Effective counteraction of misinformation on Israel, the Middle East and the Arab/Israel conflict
  - A better informed public understanding of Israel in relation to contemporary Jewish identity
- Working with Jews in other States and Territories to achieve these objectives at a national level through the Executive Council of Australian Jewry.

### **3. Our Policies**

#### **3.1 Introduction**

The current policy platform of the Jewish Community Council of Victoria is outlined below.

Its development has not been an easy task. Our community is heterogeneous and hence has a multitude of views. Nonetheless, there are certain issues on which we are largely united. These include the significance of Israel in Jewish life, a commitment to Jewish continuity and the importance of Jewish education for our children.

While recognising the diversity of the Victorian Jewish community, these policies seek to embody the majority beliefs and values of our community. These, we believe, enhance general Australian values of democracy, the rule of law, the freedom, rights and responsibilities of the individual, understanding and respect, and a fair go for all.

### **3.2 The Victorian Jewish community**

This Council:

3.2.1 RECOGNISES the distinctive character of the Victorian Jewish community as part of the Jewish people in Australia and elsewhere, with a shared history, culture and religious tradition.

3.2.2 RECOGNISES Victorian Jewry as a vital and vibrant component of a culturally diverse Australian society.

3.2.3 RECOGNISES the pluralistic nature of Victorian Jewry and its complex nature due to diverse languages, cultural origin and countries of origin.

3.2.4 RECOGNISES that the JCCV is the sum of its affiliates and the need for regular, appropriate and ongoing consultation with the latter.

3.2.5 ACKNOWLEDGES that skilled professional expertise is crucial to the effective and efficient delivery of services and support within the organised Jewish community and the need to provide relevant professional development and encouragement of Jewish professional involvement in community organisations.

3.2.6 ACKNOWLEDGES that volunteerism is the backbone of organised Jewish communal life and the need to provide all possible support for and recognition of volunteers.

3.2.7 ACKNOWLEDGES the diversity of Jewish organisations in Victoria, which cater to a wide range of interests and needs within the Jewish community and are an indication of its strength.

3.2.8 ACKNOWLEDGES the right of any Jewish organisation to identify as an ethnic organisation due to the choice of the membership of that organisation or due to specific aims, objectives and programs consistent with policies and programs of the government relating to ethnic affairs.

3.2.9 ACKNOWLEDGES the right of any Jewish organisation to identify as a faith organisation due to the choice of the membership of that organisation or due to specific aims, objectives and programs consistent with policies and programs of the government relating to religious affairs.

3.2.10 VALUES the friendly cooperation and cordial relationship between Victorian Jewry and ethnic groups and roof bodies within Victoria.

3.2.11 VALUES the friendly cooperation and cordial relationship between Victorian Jewry and faith groups and roof bodies within Victoria.

3.2.12 ENCOURAGES close liaison between Jewish organisations and ethnic, faith and other Victorian groups in the pursuit of common policies in the best interests of the entire Victorian community.

### **3.3 Cultural Diversity**

This Council:

3.3.1 AFFIRMS its support for Federal and Victorian policies of cultural diversity, which have benefited all citizens as a building block of social cohesion.

3.3.2 CALLS ON Federal and Victorian governments to confirm their commitment to cultural diversity as a policy which respects the right of all Australians to express their individual cultural identity, and to maintain and share their cultural heritage, within the framework of an overriding commitment to Australia, the basic values of Australian democracy and the rule of law.

3.3.3 COMMENDS government policy of ensuring access and equity in the provision of government services, including the provision of mechanisms to address the barriers faced by immigrants not yet familiar with Australian culture and language.

3.3.4 ACKNOWLEDGES the diversity of cultural expressions within the Jewish community and supports the furtherance of diverse cultural activity.

3.3.5 CALLS UPON Jews and Jewish organisations to support others whose views they disagree with but whose presence is constructive for diversity within the community

3.3.6 RECOGNISES the centrality of language to cultural transmission and calls upon members and elements of the community to increase their learning and daily use of Jewish languages.

### **3.4 Interfaith Relations**

This Council:

3.4.1 WELCOMES the development of multi-faith events and contacts between bodies representing many diverse faith groups.

3.4.2 APPLAUDS activities which improve the basis for dialogue between Jews and other faith groups.

3.4.3 NOTES past efforts at improving Jewish-Muslim relations, particularly those which have recognised common concerns in human rights areas such as religious liberty, racial tolerance and recognition of religious rights.

3.4.4 SUPPORTS dialogue and cooperation between representatives of the Jewish community and all other faith communities with a view to common action for communal tolerance and inter-community cooperation.

3.4.5 CALLS on all Australians to respect the dignity and right of all people to maintain their own religious traditions.

3.4.6 SUPPORTS the expansion of the dialogue process to include other partner organisations representing religious communities.

### **3.5 Racism in Victoria**

This Council:

3.5.1 CONDEMNS all manifestations of racist action and speech.

3.5.2 SUPPORTS public programs to educate Victorians regarding the senselessness and immorality of racism.

3.5.3 CALLS ON leaders of all mainstream political parties to consistently articulate a vision which embraces cultural diversity and which guarantees dignity and rights for all Victorians.

3.5.4 CALLS ON all mainstream political parties to place racist, divisive and extremist candidates in the last positions when allocating electoral preferences.

3.5.5 CALLS on political, civil and religious leaders to play public leadership roles in emphasising the unacceptability of racism.

### **3.6 Anti-Racist action**

This Council:

3.6.1 NOTES the activities of extremist organisations, the currency of various racist myths and the tolerance given to racist comment by some sections of the mainstream media.

3.6.2 NOTES that racial vilification and racial violence in Victoria have intensified since September 11, 2001.

3.6.3 ACKNOWLEDGES that effective responses to racism include moral and political leadership from public figures; legislation to make clear that racism is unacceptable and to give recourse to its victims; and on-going public education.

3.6.4 COMMENDS those public figures who have taken a leadership position against racism and antisemitism.

3.6.5 COMMENDS the Victorian Government for legislating against anti-religious and racial activity.

3.6.6 CALLS ON state and federal law enforcement agencies to urgently upgrade the capacity to pursue and apprehend the perpetrators of acts of racist violence and vandalism and to fund both public and Jewish communal strategies to achieve those ends.

### **3.7 Respect**

This Council:

3.7.1 ACKNOWLEDGES the distinctive character of the Victorian Jewish community as part of the Jewish people worldwide, with a shared history, culture and religious tradition.

3.7.2 RECOGNISES that irrespective of the common traits that bind us as a community, Victorian Jewry is also diverse and pluralistic and that this is reflected in different, often strongly held views, on a range of issues affecting the Jewish and larger communities.

3.7.3 CALLS FOR respect for any such differences, while affirming that disagreement is only permissible in ways that do not vilify other persons or their views.

3.7.4 CALLS FOR abstention from any public or private conduct that incites hatred against, serious contempt for, revulsion, vilification or severe ridicule of, another person or group on the ground of their identity (including race, religion, colour, disability, sexual orientation, gender and national origin) or views of that other person or group.

### **3.8 Antisemitism**

This Council:

3.8.1 EXPRESSES ALARM at the escalation in acts of antisemitism in Victoria including assaults on Jewish people, attacks on synagogues and other Jewish institutions and on homes and businesses owned by Jews.

3.8.2 NOTES that extremist left and right-wing organisations have encouraged their supporters to work together with extremist elements within other communities.

3.8.3 CONDEMNS the prevalence of anti-Jewish rhetoric in elements of the mass-media which hides behind criticisms of Israel.

3.8.4 CALLS ON the government of Victoria to take all necessary steps to protect Jewish citizens and communal property and to prevent other acts of anti-Jewish incitement.

3.8.5 COMMENDS Victoria Police for agreeing to establish an Intelligence Crime Desk at the Moorabbin Divisional Intelligence Unit to monitor and report antisemitic incidents and offences committed against the Victorian Jewish community.

### **3.9 Reporting of antisemitic incidents**

This Council:

3.9.1 NOTES the importance of the Jewish community's state and national leadership having an accurate picture of the nature and extent of antisemitic violence, vandalism, intimidation and harassment in both Victoria and Australia.

3.9.2 URGES all members of the public to report all incidents of an antisemitic nature, whether crimes or not, to the B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation Commission and the Community Security Group.

### **3.10 Holocaust Denial**

This Council:

3.10.1 NOTES that individuals and organisations in Victoria propagate Holocaust denial to attack the Jewish community.

3.10.2 NOTES the deception employed by Holocaust deniers in the way they present their hatred in quasi-academic guise.

3.10.3 CALLS ON Jewish organisations to continue the policy of not engaging Holocaust deniers in any public debate which could give credence to Holocaust denial but to clearly and publicly identify Holocaust deniers as people engaged in antisemitism, racism and promotion of extremist ideologies.

### **3.11 Holocaust Rhetoric**

This Council:

3.11.1 RECOGNISES that the Holocaust, the Nazi program of genocide, was a unique historical event.

3.11.2 NOTES that the Holocaust is generally recognised as the benchmark of human evil.

3.11.3 DEPLORES the inappropriate use of terminology relating to the Nazi Genocide in Australian public debate.

### **3.12 Holocaust Remembrance**

This Council:

3.12.1 ENCOURAGES public remembrance of Kristallnacht, Yom Hashoa and UN Holocaust Memorial Day.

3.12.2 CALLS on the Victorian Department of Education to ensure that all students obtain a basic knowledge of the events of the Holocaust in order to gain an understanding of the dangers of ideological hatred.

### **3.13 Restitution**

This Council:

3.13.1 APPLAUDS the efforts of those working for the rights of survivors, their heirs and the Jewish world in the areas of restitution and restoration of property and true recording of the history of the Holocaust.

3.13.2 CALLS for the resolution of all outstanding claims with a minimum of administrative cost or delay, and for priority in the application of funds for the benefit of survivors and the heirs of victims.

### **3.14 Terrorism**

This Council:

3.14.1 JOINS in mourning the victims of terrorism in Israel and throughout the world, and extends condolences to the relatives and friends of those who have been murdered, and sympathy and wishes full recovery to the injured.

3.14.2 SUPPORTS local efforts to prevent terrorist attacks, including the enactment of effective anti-terrorism laws, the application of resources for efficient investigative processes, and local participation in the international war against terrorism.

3.14.3 NOTES the importance of legislation designed to counter terrorism and to provide security properly recognising the required balance between human rights and law enforcement.

3.14.4 APPLAUDS governmental activity to ensure that the cohesion of Australia's multicultural society is not prejudiced in the undertaking of anti-terrorism activities.

### **3.15 Jewish Education**

This Council:

3.15.1 NOTES that the Victorian Jewish community maintains a number of private day schools which are essential to Jewish learning and our community's continuity.

3.15.2 STRESSES the importance of Jewish day schools having high quality Jewish and Israel Studies and Jewish languages curricula.

3.15.3 NOTES that the provision by the United Jewish Education Board of Jewish education to Jewish students who do not attend Jewish day schools in Victoria is essential to ensuring Jewish learning and our community's continuity for those outside of the Jewish day school movement.

3.15.4 CALLS ON all Victorian Jewish Day Schools, the United Jewish Education Board and Jewish Youth groups to substantially increase the teaching of contemporary issues facing Israel and world and Australian Jewry in programs offered at primary and secondary levels.

3.15.5 RECONFIRMS the responsibility of leaders of Victorian Jewry to strive to ensure that no Jewish child is denied full-time Jewish education due to financial considerations; and the continued responsibility of leaders of Victorian Jewry to support organisations that provide Jewish education of children who are outside of the Jewish day school system to ensure Jewish continuity for all.

3.15.6 CALLS ON Jewish communal and fund-raising organisations to explore additional methods of alleviating financial constraints affecting Jewish day school education and the ability of Jewish day schools to provide the highest quality Jewish education.

3.15.7 NOTES the importance of and encourages participation in Adult Jewish education opportunities such as those offered by Melton and Limmud Oz.

### **3.16 Gender Equity**

3.16.1 This Council:

- a. RECOGNISES the leadership capability and commitment to be found within the Jewish community in Victoria;
- b. Recognises the need for people in leadership positions to possess appropriate qualifications and experience; and
- c. Having read to the above, seeks to reflect gender equity in its leadership positions.

3.16.2 To this end the Council commits to achieving gender equity in its elected representatives including:

- The committee of management of the Council (**Executive**); and
- Victorian Councillors to the Executive Council of Australian Jewry (**Councillors**)

### **3.17 Youth Representation**

This Council:

3.17.1 RECOGNISES that the involvement of younger community members is of vital importance to the success of Jewish continuity.

3.17.2 NOTES with concern the lack of youth representation on most communal bodies.

3.17.3 CALLS on constituent bodies to encourage youth involvement.

3.17.4 CALLS on Jewish communal bodies to support and work with youth groups and movements to prepare an action plan to develop strategies to encourage youth participation on communal bodies.

3.17.5 RECOGNISES the important social, cultural and educational contribution over many years made by our many organised Jewish youth movements and calls on affiliate groups to support their work into the future.

3.17.6 ENCOURAGES the organised Jewish youth movements to encourage their members to grow into broader community leadership roles.

### **3.18 State Ceremonies**

This Council:

3.18.1 CALLS ON the State Government to recognise that state ceremonies, celebrations and memorials should be inclusive and not make use of religious words and symbols that may effectively exclude some Australian citizens.

### **3.19 Accommodation of Religious Practices**

This Council:

3.19.1 NOTES decisions by a number of instrumentalities which recognise and support the right of all staff to meet their religious and ceremonial obligations, regardless of religious, ethnic or cultural background.

3.19.2 RECOGNISES the right of all Victorians to observe religious and ceremonial obligations.

3.19.3 CALLS UPON government and employers organisations to respect and support, as a matter of policy, the right of employees to meet the obligations of their beliefs.

3.19.4 CALLS UPON Government to ensure that religious and ceremonial obligations can be observed without attracting the threat of loss of employment.

3.19.5 CALLS UPON Government and statutory bodies to take religious holy days and dietary requirements into consideration when planning public events.

### **3.20 Jewish Burial Rights**

This Council:

3.20.1 NOTES Jewish law and tradition require burial in perpetuity.

3.20.2 NOTES that a grave containing human remains is demarcated as the final resting place of the person concerned and the integrity of the grave must not be altered without explicit Rabbinic authority.

3.20.3 REAFFIRMS the need to maintain arrangements for Jewish burials in perpetuity and calls on cemetery authorities to respect this requirement; and

3.20.4 CALLS UPON State Governments to plan for and ensure sufficient land is allocated for Jewish communities to bury their dead in accordance with Jewish communal requirements.

### **3.21 Get (Divorce) Refusal**

This Council:

3.21.1 RECOGNISES the invidious situation of the agunah (wife refused a divorce).

3.21.2 URGES the members of the Rabbinical Council of Victoria and the Melbourne Beth Din to collaborate with their counterparts in Australia and elsewhere to seek an acceptable solution to deliberate Get refusal.

### **3.22 Social Justice**

This Council:

3.22.1 RECOGNISES the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities and encourages its affiliate organisations to uphold the principles therein.

3.22.2 RECOGNISES that there are many people within the Jewish and wider communities who are members of socially disadvantaged groups.

3.22.3 NOTES that there are individuals prohibited from full involvement in Jewish communal life due to their membership of socially disadvantaged groups.

3.22.4 ACKNOWLEDGES its duty to ameliorate the social disadvantage and hence individual distress of Victorian Jews through support of its affiliate organisations.

3.22.5 URGES its affiliate organisations to be conscious of and to cater for the needs of socially disadvantaged Jews.

3.22.6 ACKNOWLEDGES its duty to ameliorate the social disadvantage of members of the broader Victorian community by working in concert with faith, ethnic and other groups.

### **3.23 Mental Health**

This Council:

3.23.1 RECOGNISES that there are members of the Victorian Jewish Community with mental health issues which require different types and levels of response.

3.23.2 RECOGNISES the need to destigmatise these members of our community.

3.23.3 RECOGNISES that members of our community with mental health issues can often be disadvantaged financially, and isolated socially and therefore encourages community organisations to be mindful of this and to extend their support when and wherever possible by ensuring their policies and procedures are inclusive of all individuals.

3.23.4 SUPPORTS those affiliates whose members possess professional qualifications (recognised under the Health Professionals Registration Act, 2005, Victoria) who provide specialist services and expertise within a Jewish ethos (assessment/diagnosis/treatment; community education and referrals) to those in the community with and/or affected by mental health issues.

3.23.5 SUPPORTS those affiliates whose members while not professionally qualified in this field provide support services within a Jewish ethos to those in the community with and/or affected by mental health issues.

### **3.24 Integration**

This Council:

3.24.1 NOTES that the Jewish community includes Jewish immigrants who are on the fringes of the organised community structure.

3.24.2 RESOLVES to support affiliate organisations in taking active steps to absorb and integrate these immigrants into our community's core.

### **3.25 Aboriginal Reconciliation**

This Council:

3.25.1 RECOGNISES Indigenous people as the first Australians, with unique cultures, languages and spiritual relationships to the land and waters.

3.25.2 PURSUES a vision of an Australia that provides equal rights and life chances for all.

3.25.3 AFFIRMS the fundamental importance of reconciliation as the basis of an Australian Community which respects the diversity of values, cultures, ideas and the contribution of all people.

3.25.4 SUPPORTS programs that encourage organisations and individuals to turn their good intentions into action.

Areas for action may include the Council using its networks to:

- Raise community awareness and understanding of the historic, social and economic factors which contribute to the current levels of disadvantage confronting many Indigenous people and communities.
- Influence governments and business to address the systemic issues that keep many Indigenous people and their communities in poor health and poverty.
- Support human rights based approaches to economic and social development programs in Indigenous communities; and

- Lead inter-faith alliances to develop and provide targeted financial and capacity building support to selected projects which strengthen Indigenous organisations' governance, management, service delivery and professional development.

3.25.5 ENCOURAGES the Jewish community to increase its knowledge and understanding of the identity and experiences of Indigenous peoples and reflect this awareness in our social relationships and our support for their advancement.

3.25.6 CALLS UPON the government, business and civil communities and people of Victoria to take action to reduce the relative disadvantage many Indigenous people may face by improving education, health, housing, employment, governance, social and communal relationships and law and justice

3.25.7 ENCOURAGES our affiliates and other Jewish organisations and individuals to support and pursue reconciliation in their activities.

### **3.26 Climate Change**

This Council:

3.26.1 NOTES that climate change is a major challenge facing Victoria and the world. The current drought, water shortages, bush fires and record temperatures remind all Australians of our nation's vulnerability to climate change.

3.26.2 SUPPORTS efforts to bring together Australian faith communities to take action on climate change.

3.26.3 DECLARES its support for action to tackle Australia's rising greenhouse gas emissions.

### **3.27 Stem Cell Research**

This Council:

3.27.1 NOTES that leading rabbinic authorities have given their support to the use of existing embryos for stem cell research, mindful that Jewish law concerns itself that such embryos are only appropriately obtained.

3.27.2 NOTES that stem cell research offers great hope to many sufferers and contains the potential to rectify painful, debilitating and life shortening genetic conditions.

3.27.3 SUPPORTS properly conducted research into the saving of life as a part of our human mandate to act in the image of G-d, to heal and to be merciful.

3.27.4 CALLS ON all JCCV affiliates to encourage Victorian Jews to publicly support the opportunities which stem cell research provides as reinforcing and not diminishing the sanctity of life.

### **3.28 Israel**

This Council:

3.28.1 AFFIRMS Victorian Jewry's strong and enduring solidarity with Israel and her people.

3.28.2 APPLAUDS the Victorian government's relationship and agreements with numerous Israeli governmental institutions, Israeli and public bodies and academic institutions.

3.28.3 STRONGLY URGES all Jews, individually as well as communally and institutionally, to visit Israel and schedule events in Israel.

3.28.4 APPLAUDS the success of many Israel experience programs operated by Australian Jewish organisations in partnership with Israel.

### **3.29 Alcohol**

This Council:

3.29.1 ACKNOWLEDGES that inappropriate levels of alcohol consumption is a problem within the Victoria Jewish Community, reported anecdotally to be of equal severity to that of the general Victorian Community. The problem is particularly serious amongst our youth from aged 12 years and above, who engage in binge drinking and expose themselves to risk.

3.29.2 AFFIRMS its support for the Federal and Victorian Governments' policies and Police initiatives designed to educate the community about the dangers of alcohol consumption, particularly regarding underage drinking

3.29.3 RECOGNISES that alcohol can play a part in Jewish religious ceremonies but notes that grape juice is often regarded as a viable alternative for both minors and adults as a non-alcoholic option.

3.29.4 ENCOURAGES all Victorian Jewish Schools, youth related groups and organisations to participate in Alcohol Abuse Awareness Programs for their students and parent body.

3.29.5 CALLS UPON all Jewish Parents to be appropriate and responsible role models in relation to alcohol use, for their own children and for all children in the Community.

3.29.6 CALLS UPON all Jewish communal groups and organisations, as well as leaders in the Community and all individuals to take into account the provision and supply of alcohol when planning events either public or private. It is imperative that adults in the Jewish Community model the responsible supply and use of alcohol.

### **3.30 Child Protection**

This Council:

3.30.1 AFFIRMS that all children have the right under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child to be protected from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse, while in the care of parent(s), legal guardian(s) or any other person who has the care of the child.

3.30.2 NOTES that the Victorian Child Wellbeing and Safety Act (2005) establishes inter alia the fundamental principles that:

- i. society as a whole shares responsibility for promoting the wellbeing and safety of children; and
- ii. those who develop and provide services, as well as parents, should give the highest priority to the promotion and protection of a child's safety, health, development, education and wellbeing.

3.30.3 ITERATES Jewish values that emphasise the importance of our youth, and Jewish laws that recognise the vulnerability of children and prohibit physical, emotional, verbal and sexual abuse and/or neglect and/or maltreatment of children of any and all kinds from any source.

3.30.4 ACKNOWLEDGES that the Jewish community is not immune from the scourge of child abuse in all its forms as well as neglect or the impacts on children growing up in an environment of family violence. Child abuse occurs in all societies, in all faiths, at all socio-economic levels and within all levels of religious observance.

3.30.5 ENCOURAGES Jewish communal groups and organisations which work with children to prioritise the development and implementation of child protection policies and procedures, and to provide educational programs for children and adults, to ensure the safety of those children in their care.

3.30.6 ENCOURAGES Jewish communal groups and organisations to raise awareness of the prevalence of abuse and promote the safety and protection of children throughout the community.

3.30.6 AFFIRMS its support for Recommendation 10 in the Victorian Parliamentary Enquiry into Vulnerable Children, which states:

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development should develop a wide-ranging education and information campaign for parents and caregivers of all school-aged children on the prevention of child sexual abuse.

3.30.7 CALLS UPON anyone who has reasonable grounds to suspect, or knowledge that a child is being harmed, or who is at risk of harm, to report it to the appropriate authorities, namely the Department of Human Services or its equivalent and/or Victoria Police.

3.30.8 CALLS UPON the Jewish community to do its utmost to assist community members who make disclosures of abuse to find the care, help and support they need, and avoid the imposition of any stigma, ridicule or discrimination by reason of having reported the abuse or having been a victim of such abuse.

### **3.31 Disability**

For the purposes of this Policy, “disability” has the meaning given to that term in the *Equal Opportunity Act 2010 (Vic)*, that is “disability” includes:

- (a) total or partial loss of a bodily function; or
- (b) the presence in the body of organisms that may cause disease; or
- (c) total or partial loss of a part of the body; or
- (d) malfunction of a part of the body, including:
  - (i) a mental or psychological disease or disorder;
  - (ii) a condition or disorder that results in a person learning more slowly than people who do not have that condition or disorder;  
or
- (e) malformation or disfigurement of a part of the body.

This Council:

3.31.1 REFERS to the United Nation’s ‘Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities’ in its recognition that “disability results from the interaction between persons with impairments and attitudinal and environmental barriers that hinders their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others”.

3.31.2 IS committed to the principles of Access and Equity set out in the Department Of Human Services’ Access and Equity Framework 2013-2017 and inclusion of members of the Victorian Jewish Community who are disadvantaged by disability.

3.31.3 RECOGNISES the diverse experience of persons with disability, and that there are members of the Victorian Jewish Community with disabilities, who require different types and levels of response.

3.31.4 SUPPORTS the development of projects, which improve opportunity for inclusion and access including: education, training, employment, affordable childcare, assistance with housing, a range of disability and aged care services – support for care-givers; and above all – building up at community levels a network of supportive services, amenities and accessible transport facilities and social mentoring which reduce stigma and social exclusion from the networks and vibrant life of our community. In addition, the JCCV SUPPORTS projects that promote full and effective participation and inclusion in the community of people with disabilities on an equal basis with others and without discrimination.

3.31.5 ACKNOWLEDGES that inclusion of and access for people with a disability to mainstream services, community based activities and other government initiatives, is a shared responsibility and therefore in its role as a roof body calls on organisations within the Victorian Jewish Community to be inclusive, as they would any other constituent.

3.31.6 ACKNOWLEDGES that organisations have a legal obligation to make reasonable adjustments when providing services, education or employment for people with disabilities.

3.31.7 PROMOTES the adoption of the Companion Card as a mechanism for advancing the policy.