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JCCV and AIS Comedy Debate celebrates Multiculturalism

The “Not So Holy” Comedy Debate held at the Melbourne Town Hall last Monday evening, was a celebration of Multicultural Melbourne. The Jewish Community Council of Victoria in conjunction with the Australian Intercultural Society worked harmoniously to achieve a topical debate on whether, “Laughter is the Best Medicine?”

Six eloquent participants of the debate worked smartly to break down barriers of stereotypes and emphasise their arguments for and against laughter being the best medicine. The affirmative team, Michael Shafar (Captain), Annie Louey and Sam Gebreselassie were exceptional in their wit and energy arguing the power of laughter across many spheres, however the negative team of Justine Sless (Captain), Cemil Yildiz and Jacob Sacher convincingly won the debate through their logic of integrating the strengths of both medicine and idiocentric humour to win over the 150 plus audience.

A grant from the Office of Multicultural Affairs and Citizenship, Department of Premier and Cabinet enabled the JCCV and AIS to collaborate so productively for this event. The City of Melbourne generously offered the Swanston Hall for this special evening and guests were delighted by the insightful dialogue of the moderator, Father Bob Maguire and the Middle Eastern themed music and effects.

The ability to bring together Jewish and Multifaith participants and guests was a true highlight of the evening and their shared ability to laugh at common held assumptions encouraged the crowd to change perceptions of their communities and identify common themes across all faiths centralized by comedy and a strong sense of community.

Judy Fetter
Executive Director
19 August 2019

Jennifer Huppert
President JCCV

