

# JCCV 2018

## ANNUAL REPORT



WE ARE YOUR VOICE

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# AGENDA

## NOTICE & AGENDA OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Jewish Community Council of Victoria Inc will be held on:

**MONDAY, 19 NOVEMBER 2018 AT 8.00 PM**

at Gandel House, Emmy Monash Aged Care, 7 Hawthorn Road, Caulfield North

### Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. Adoption of Minutes of the Annual General Meeting – 20 November 2017
4. JCCV Year in Review
5. Address by Commissioner Andrew Crisp, Emergency Management Victoria
6. Presentation of the 2018 Sir General John Monash Award
7. Presentation of the JCCV Young Leader Award
8. Presentation of Marion and Kurt Lippmann Scholarship
9. Report of the President, Jennifer Huppert and presentation of the Annual Report
10. Presentation of Financial Statements
11. Adoption of Reports
12. Appointment of Honorary Solicitors
13. Appointment of Auditors
14. General Business

# ABOUT

## ABOUT THE JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF VICTORIA

The Jewish Community Council of Victoria (JCCV) is the peak representative body for Victorian Jewry, Australia's largest Jewish community. With fifty-five major communal organisations as its affiliates, the JCCV represents the mosaic of political, cultural, welfare, educational, religious and social associations operating in Victoria.

The Victorian and Federal Governments, their agencies, the media, and ethnic and religious groups have long recognised the JCCV as the representative body of the Victorian Jewish community, speaking on its behalf on all matters affecting its status, welfare and interests. The JCCV provides leadership and a voice for Victoria's 52,000+ Jewish community members and to the broader Victorian community.

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

- Facilitation of harmony and positive relationships across the Victorian Jewish community and between our community and the broader Victorian community
- 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 and religious intolerance in general and antisemitism in particular
- Wider knowledge and appreciation of the Shoah (Holocaust) and its lessons
- A positive perception of Jews in Victorian society
- Continuing and enhancing the Victorian Jewish community's contribution to social justice and social inclusion for all community members
- A better society by promoting understanding and cooperation between all faith
- And in partnership with Zionism 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/Israeli conflict
  - A greater understanding of Israel in relation to contemporary Jewish identity

### Our Vision

A society in which members of the Victorian Jewish community are able to live as Jews in peace and security, participating fully and without prejudice.



## Our Mission

To be the recognised and responsible peak body and voice of Victorian Jewry through advocacy, representation, networking and collaboration, both within the Jewish and wider communities.

## Our values

- To be inclusive and representative of the diversity of the Jewish community;
- To be independent and objective;
- To support Jewish continuity and the Jewish way of life; and
- To support Israel.

The JCCV's priorities are:

- Community security and safety
- Representation and advocacy to government and police
- Shoah remembrance
- Social justice
- Youth engagement
- Media/public relations;
- Interfaith and multicultural dialogue
- Professional development for community organisations
- Community events
- Ensuring a fair voice for Israel

Our constituent organisations nominate delegates as members of the Council which meets at regular Plenum meetings. The Executive meets monthly.

## Honorary Officers

**President:** Jennifer Huppert  
**Vice-President:** Anton Hermann

## PATRONS

Barry and Suzi Carp  
 Alan and Elizabeth Finkel  
 Gandel Philanthropy

## COUNCILLORS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIAN JEWRY

Daniel Aghion  
 Anton Block  
 Jay Greenberg  
 Sharene Hambur  
 Anton Hermann  
 Jennifer Huppert  
 Atida Lipshatz  
 Gerard Max  
 Dr Andre Oboler  
 Dean Sherr

## PLENUM MEETING DATES FOR 2019

4 FEBRUARY	8 PM
4 MARCH	8 PM
1 APRIL	8 PM
3 JUNE	8 PM
5 AUGUST	8PM
2 SEPTEMBER	8 PM
18 NOVEMBER	8 PM
Annual General Meeting	



# EXECUTIVE

## JCCV EXECUTIVE 2018

### Office Bearers

<b>President</b>	Jennifer Huppert
<b>Vice President</b>	Anton Hermann
<b>Honorary Treasurer</b>	

### Portfolios

<b>Affiliate Relations</b>	
<b>Governance &amp; Fundraising</b>	Anton Hermann
<b>Social Justice</b>	Rimma Sverdlin OAM
<b>Interfaith &amp; Multicultural</b>	Frances Prince
<b>Online Engagement</b>	Dr Andre Oboler
<b>Security</b>	Jack Lipson
<b>Social Inclusion &amp; Community Engagement</b>	Doron Abramovici

Co-opted – June 2015	Bram Presser
Co-opted – July 2015	Daniel Nash
Co-opted – November 2017	Dean Cohen
Co-opted – March 2018	Isabelle Polgar

### Member of Executive – Ex Officio

<b>Zionist Council of Victoria</b>	Sharene Hambur
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### Professional Staff

<b>Executive Director</b>	David Marlow	<b>Resigned June 2018</b>
<b>Business Manager</b>	Hilary McMahon	
<b>Project Manager</b>	Anat Aloni	

### Community Security Group

<b>Security Director</b>	Ricky Pearl
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## PRESIDENTS

### VICTORIAN JEWISH BOARD OF DEPUTIES

Maurice Ashkanasy	7 May 1947 - Oct 1950	Nathan Hirsch Beller OBE	Dec 1966 - Dec 1969
Ben Green	Oct 1950 - Aug 1951	Walter M Lippmann MBE AM	Dec 1969 - Dec 1972
Bernard Cowen	Aug 1951 - Dec 1951	Isi Joseph Leibler AO CBE	Dec 1972 - Mar 1977
Maurice Ashkanasy	Dec 1951 - Dec 1954	Arnold Bloch AM	Mar 1977 - Feb 1980
Abraham Samuel Leibler	Dec 1954 - Dec 1956	Phil Symons OAM	Feb-Apr 1980
Trevor Rapke	Dec 1956 - Oct 1958	Robert Zablud	April 1980 - Dec 1986
Nathan Jacobson	Nov 1958 - Dec 1961	Phil Symons OAM	Dec 1986 - Dec 1987
Maurice Ashkanasy	Dec 1961 - Dec 1962	Shmuel Rosenkranz	Dec 1987 - Oct 1988
Leon Lasky	Dec 1962 - Dec 1966		

### JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF VICTORIA INC

Shmuel Rosenkranz	Oct 1988 - Dec 1990	Grahame Leonard AM	Mar 2001 - Mar 2003
Joe Gersh AM	Dec 1990 - Mar 1993	Michael Lipshutz OAM	Mar 2003 - Nov 2005
Leon Rosen	Mar 1993 - Aug 1994	Anton Block	Nov 2005 - Nov 2008
Geoffrey Green OAM	Sept 1994 - Dec 1996	John Searle	Nov 2008 - Nov 2011
Nina Bassat, AM	Dec 1996 - Dec 1998	Nina Bassat AM	Nov 2011 - Nov 2014
Dr Philip Bliss OAM	Dec 1998 - Nov 2000	Jennifer Huppert	Nov 2014 -
David Klein	Nov 2000 - Mar 2001		

## BOARD OF PATRONS AND COUNCILLORS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIAN JEWRY 2019

### BOARD OF PATRONS

Barry and Suzi Carp
Alan and Elizabeth Finkel
Gandel Philanthropy

### COUNCILLORS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIAN JEWRY

Daniel Aghion	Jennifer Huppert
Anton Block	Atida Lipshatz
Jay Greenberg	Gerard Max
Sharene Hambur	Dr Andre Oboler
Anton Hermann	Dean Sherr

### PLENUM MEETING DATES FOR 2019

5 FEBRUARY	8 PM	6 AUGUST	8 PM
7 MARCH	8 PM	3 SEPTEMBER	8 PM
7 MAY	8 PM	19 NOVEMBER	8 PM Annual General Meeting
2 JULY	8 PM		

# MESSAGE



The Hon Daniel Andrews MP

Premier of Victoria

1 Treasury Place  
Melbourne, Victoria 3002 Australia  
Telephone: +613 9651 5000

15 OCT 2018

## MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER

On behalf of the Victorian Government, I congratulate the Jewish Community Council of Victoria (JCCV) on your many achievements over the past year.

For more than 80 years, the JCCV has promoted intercultural and interfaith harmony while at the same time serving its community with great distinction.

It's precisely because of groups like the JCCV that here in Victoria we regard our diversity as the most precious asset we have.

Supporting diversity means supporting every Victorian to share and celebrate their culture, traditions and faith.

The JCCV is an important partner in this work and one of the most valuable sources of support and advocacy for Victoria's Jewish communities.

It's why the Victorian Government will always greatly value the JCCV's important contributions.

Once again, I congratulate everyone affiliated with the JCCV on the past year's achievements and wish you and the communities you serve all the best for the year ahead.

The Hon Daniel Andrews MP  
Premier



## THE HON. MATTHEW GUY MP

Leader of the Opposition  
Leader of the Liberal Party  
State Member for Bulleen

Level 1, 157 Spring Street  
Melbourne Victoria 3000  
t. 03 9651 6719 f. 03 9651 8987  
matthew.guy@parliament.vic.gov.au

### MESSAGE FROM THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

It gives me great pleasure to send my best wishes to the Jewish Community Council of Victoria (JCCV) and its members as you come together for this year's Annual General meeting.

Our State is the leading example of the many ways in which cultural, linguistic and religious diversity can enrich all aspects of society – including social, cultural and economic life.

It is very hard to imagine our State being the multicultural capital of Australia and the envy of the world, if it were not for the pivotal role that the JCCV has played in helping us achieving this.

Over the years, the JCCV has continued to demonstrate exceptional leadership and support to the Jewish community, establishing itself as the peak body and voice of Victorian Jewry.

JCCV's outstanding leadership in our State's interfaith and intercultural movement and has helped maintain the social cohesion and community harmony Victoria is renowned for.

On behalf of the Liberal Nationals I wish to thank the Jewish Community Council of Victoria (JCCV) for its enormous contribution to the strength, prosperity and vibrancy of our society and for the pivotal role that it continues to play in strengthening of Victoria's relationship with Israel.

I extend my most sincere wishes for good fortune, good health, and happiness to the board and members of the Jewish Community Council of Victoria (JCCV) and the entire Jewish community.



**THE HON. MATTHEW GUY MP**  
Leader of the Opposition  
Leader of the Liberal Party  
State Member for Bulleen

17.9.18

 matthewguy.com.au  @matthewguyp  /matthewguyp



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ABN 93 880 343 953

President  
**Sharene Hambur**  
Vice Presidents  
**Jeff Morrison**  
**John Searle**  
Hon. Treasurer  
**Mory Kalkopf**  
Executive Director  
**Jean Katzen**



#### **President of Zionism Victoria to the Jewish Community Council of Victoria 2018**

On behalf of Zionism Victoria, it is my great pleasure to extend greetings to the Jewish Community Council of Victoria on the occasion of its forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

As Jennifer Huppert and her Executive come to the end of their term I would like to congratulate them on the wonderful work that the JCCV has undertaken in area of interfaith and inter-community relations as well as within our own community over the last three years for example, the highly successful inter-community dinners have been expanded to include a number of emerging communities who look to the Victorian Jewish community as an exemplar of community engagement. Within our own community, the JCCV has also been increasingly active in areas such as their Youth Alcohol Project and issues associated with mental health and have provided valuable resources for our community in these areas.

I have valued the close working relationship that Zionism Victoria has had with the JCCV at both a professional and lay leadership level. We have worked together on many occasions including our annual Yom Ha'atzmaut Politicians Cocktail Party for parliamentarians and other civic leaders and the hosting of Isaac Herzog during his visit to Melbourne. In particular, I have valued my close personal relationship with Jennifer Huppert as the President of the Council. We speak regularly and I value her wise counsel and friendship.

The last year has been one of change for the JCCV as it farewelled it's Executive Director, David Marlow. David's work during his time at the JCCV contributed greatly to its strength and vitality and I am sure that his work will be built upon in the years to come.

Zionism Victoria is delighted that Jennifer will be assuming the role of President for a further term and we look forward to continuing our work with her and her new Executive to strengthen the Victorian Jewish community and its connection with Israel.

I wish you *hatzlacha raba* for all your endeavours.

Sharene Hambur  
President

**Executive  
Council of  
Australian  
Jewry Inc.**

**הוועד הפועל של  
יהודי אוסטרליה**

**The Representative  
Organisation of  
Australian Jewry**

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Sydney NSW 2000

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**PRESIDENT**  
Anton Block

**DEPUTY PRESIDENT**  
Jillian Segal AM

**HON. TREASURER**  
Jay Greenberg

**HON. SECRETARY**  
David Knoll AM

**Co-CEOs**  
Peter Wertheim AM  
Alex Ryvchin

**VICE PRESIDENTS**  
Jeremy Spinak (NSW)  
Jennifer Huppert (VIC)  
Joan Hillman (WA)  
Paul Myers (QLD)  
Professor Larry Lockshin (SA)  
Susan Steenberg (TAS)  
Yael Cass (ACT)

**IMM. PAST PRESIDENT**  
Robert M Goot AM, SC

**CONSTITUENTS**  
NSW Jewish Board of Deputies  
Jewish Community Council  
of Victoria Inc  
Jewish Community Council of  
Western Australia Inc  
Queensland Jewish Board of  
Deputies  
Jewish Community Council  
of South Australia  
Hobart Hebrew Congregation  
ACT Jewish Community Inc

**AFFILIATES**  
Australasian Union of Jewish  
Students  
Australian Federation of WIZO  
Union for Progressive Judaism  
Federation of Jewish Aged  
Care Services  
Maccabi Australia Inc  
National Council of Jewish Women  
B'nai B'rith of Australia/ NZ  
Jewish National Fund of Australia  
Joint Distribution Committee Australia

**OBSERVERS**  
Council of Progressive Rabbis  
Federation of Australian Jewish  
Ex-Service Associations  
New Zealand Jewish Council  
Zionist Federation of Australia  
Council of Orthodox Synagogues of  
Australia



Jennifer Huppert  
President  
Jewish Community Council of Victoria  
306 Hawthorn Road  
Caulfield South VIC 3162

3 September 2018

Dear Jennifer

It is with pleasure that I extend, both personally and on behalf of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry, my congratulations to you, your Office-Bearers, members of the Executive, Councillors and staff on another year of exemplary service to the Victorian Jewish community.

Some of the highlights of the year for the JCCV included:

- The very successful Jewish Cultural Awareness Days with both Victorian State politicians and the City of Glen Eira;
- The Jewish-Muslim Comedy Debate
- Jewish-Catholic & Small Communities Friendship Dinners
- Receiving a grant from the State Government to conduct a joint project on Islamophobia and Racism
- Co-hosting the Jewish community event with Isacc Herog MK

These highlights were in addition to the JCCV's Shoah commemorations, Yom Ha'atzmaut and other Israeli celebrations, and other interfaith and inter-communal events all of which require considerable organisational effort and have an immensely positive impact for the Jewish and wider communities.

We also commend the JCCV for its constructive contribution to the ECAJ's policy discussions at a national level and to the ECAJ's National Working Group on Child Protection. We wish you continuing success in your endeavours and look forward to working with everyone at the JCCV in the year ahead.

Yours sincerely

**Anton Block**  
President

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

## INTRODUCTION

2018 has been a busy and productive year for the JCCV.

One of the highlights for the Victorian Jewish community in 2018 was the visit by the then leader of the opposition in the Knesset and chair elect

of the Jewish Agency, Isaac Herzog. Mr Herzog addressed a full auditorium at Beth Weizmann at an event co-hosted by the JCCV, ECAJ, Zionism Victoria, ZFA and AIJAC.



This year also saw the release of the preliminary results of the Gen17 survey, and the JCCV has been considering these results, and what it means for our activities and the Victorian Jewish community more broadly.

The JCCV has successfully advocated for the Jewish Community in Victoria, building on existing strong relationships with State and Local Government, Government Instrumentalities, NGO's, the media and the wider Victorian community, including its many ethnic and

faith based communities, and the JCCV is seen by the Government as a role model of many of these groups.

The JCCV has strengthened our community by implementing initiatives in the area of mental health and drug and alcohol abuse amongst young people, while continuing its emphasis on social inclusion. Holocaust commemoration remains one of the organisation's core activities.

## REPRESENTATION – POLITICAL, POLICE, INTERFAITH AND MULTICULTURAL

### Political

The strong bipartisan support for the Jewish community and Israel from all sides of the politics in Victoria continues to be a feature of Victorian political life. The Premier, the Hon. Daniel Andrew MP, visited Israel in December 2017, and the Governor of Victoria, the Hon. Linda Dessau AC, also visited Israel, further cementing trade and other relations between Victoria and Israel.

During the year the JCCV has held meetings with a number of Victorian Ministers, Shadow Ministers and senior bureaucrats to discuss topics of concern to the Jewish community, including education, anti-semitism, racism, social cohesion and security. Where possible, we work with other communal organisations in making representations to government, such as the joint NCJWA (Vic)/JCCV submission on Victoria's Gender Equality Bill

The Annual Parliamentary Cocktail Reception in honour of Yom Ha'atzmaut, jointly hosted with Zionism Victoria and sponsored by the State Government of Victoria through its Office of Multicultural Affairs and Citizenship, was a great success. Both the Premier and Leader of the Opposition spoke warmly of their relationship with the Jewish community and their support for Israel. The reception, held at the Queens Hall in the Victorian Parliament, was well attended by many members of Parliament, consular corps and representatives from many faith and ethnic communities.



annual Politicians' Jewish Immersion Day, attended by State and Local Politicians representing the ALP, Liberal Party and Greens Party, as well as political staffers and policy makers, which included visits

to Jewish Care, St Kilda Hebrew Congregation, the Jewish Museum of Australia and the Jewish Holocaust Centre (JHC).

The JCCV has held two Immersion Days for



staff of Glen Eira City Council, which is home to approximately 56% of Victoria's Jewish community. Sessions included speakers from a variety of Jewish communal organisations, as well as visits to the JHC and Caulfield Hebrew Congregation.

The Victorian Government has recognised the high cost of securing Jewish institutions. Previously, the Government committed \$500,000 towards the cost of security upgrades at Beth Weizmann, the Jewish Community Centre which is owned by Zionism Victoria. In this year's state budget, the Government allocated a further \$500,000 to Beth Weizmann, and \$3,000,000 towards security upgrades at other Jewish community buildings. This is in addition

to other grants to a number of synagogues and community centre.

A number of Victorian community institutions, including Beth Weizmann, have also received grants for security upgrades from the Federal Government's Safer Communities Fund.

The JCCV is grateful for the support of the co-chairs of the Victorian Parliamentary Friends of Israel Group, Marsha Thomson MP and David Southwick MP, both of whom attend many of our events. Marsha will be retiring from Parliament at the election in a few weeks, and I would like to take

this opportunity to acknowledge the support she has provided for both the Jewish community and Israel since she entered Parliament in 1999.

## Police

JCCV is a member of both the Victoria Police Multicultural Portfolio Reference Group and the Victoria Police Interfaith Council, and the JCCV Business Manager, Hilary McMahon continues to participate in the Community Encounters program for police and PSO recruits.

The JCCV, and the Community Security Group, continue to build relationships with members of Victoria Police, through both briefings with relevant officers, attendance by members of Victoria Police at community briefings, and events such as the annual "Schmooze with the Blues" lunch, held before Rosh Hashana.

The JCCV's activities in this area provide the opportunity for increasing understanding of the Jewish community and its needs, as well as an avenue for input into policy settings and decision making at the highest level.

For many years the JCCV has worked closely with Andrew Crisp, who after many years of service with Victoria Police has been appointed to the role of Victoria's Emergency Management Commissioner, and we are looking forward to working with Andrew in his new role.

## Multicultural and Interfaith

Victoria has a strong multicultural society, with support from all major political parties. The JCCV

plays an important role in maintaining this through its work with interfaith and multicultural groups, in both the Government and NGO sector, and with individual faith and ethnic groups. The JCCV has also been invited to participate in many events and programs aimed at developing Victorian policies in the area of Multiculturalism, including consultations with the Victorian Multicultural Commissioner, Helen Kapalos, and the Victorian Human Rights and Equal Opportunities Commissioner, Kristen Hilton. JCCV is an active member of the Victorian Government's Multifaith Advisory Group, and we have a strong relationship with the Victorian Multicultural Commission (VMC) and the Office of Multicultural Affairs and Social Cohesion.

As well as developing bilateral ties with other faith based and ethnic communities, the JCCV is a sponsoring organisation of the Jewish Christian Muslim Association (JCMA), and an active member of the Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria (ECCV) and the Faith Communities Council of Victoria (FCCV). Executive member Frances Prince sits on the boards of these organisations and ensures that the views of the Jewish community are heard in these forums.

Early in 2018 the JCCV participated in workshop held as part of the Victorian Government's Anti-Racism Action Plan to explore the role of community groups in developing programs to address the rise of Anti-Semitism and Islamophobia. Following on from that workshop, the JCCV, AUJS and 2 Muslim community organisations, the Australian Intercultural Society (AIS) and Benevolence, received funding to hold Active Bystander Training Workshops, to give participants the tools to respond to racist incidents. The program will be launched on

10 December with a workshop at the Immigration Museum in Melbourne.

One of the highlights of the multicultural and interfaith calendar in 2018 was the Third Jewish Muslim Comedy Debate, co-hosted with the AIS, at which 300 people heard panellists Justine Sless, Louise Baring, Jacob Sacher, Rana Hussain, Michael Shafar and Harun Esse debate the topic "That Arranged Marriage is better than Dating. As usual, Father Bob Maguire was a masterful moderator. The event was supported by Victorian State Government and the City of Melbourne.



Once again, the JCCV participated in the JCMA's Friendship Walks in Melbourne and Ballarat, during

which members of all 3 faiths visited a Mosque, Church and Synagogue.

The JCCV hosted or co-hosted a number of dinners with other faith and cultural groups. In June the JCCV co-hosted the Annual Jewish Catholic Friendship Dinner with the Ecumenical and interfaith Commission of the Archdiocese of Melbourne, and hosted the Inaugural Small Communities Dinner, which was attended by over 90 community leaders and clergy from the Assyrian, Ahmadiyyan, Armenian, Baha'i, Kurdish and Coptic communities.



In October the JCCV hosted its second Jewish-Indian Communities Dinner, timed to coincide with Haifa Day, at which His Excellency Mark Sofer, the Israeli Ambassador to Australia, spoke about his 4 years as Ambassador to India, and the relationship between India and Israel.



A Chanukah/Advent reception with the Victorian Council of Churches is planned for late November. During the year I and other members of the JCCV executive have represented the Jewish Community at a number of events, including:

- a panel discussion hosted by the Victorian Department of Multiculturalism and Social Cohesion as part of the Strong Cities Networks Global Summit;
- a reception for CALD communities with the Federal Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs, the Hon Alan Tudge MP,
- Iftar dinners held during Ramadan, including the Premier's Iftar and the Parliament of Victoria Iftar;
- the Premier's Lunar New Year Dinner;
- networking events organised by the Victorian Multicultural Commission (VMC);
- the Assyrian Chaldean Syriac Martyrs Day Commemoration;
- receptions held by the Egyptian Consul General and the Turkish Consul General to celebrate their respective national days;
- the annual dinner of the Islamic Council of Victoria; and
- a multifaith prayer service in support of those affected by the drought.

The JCCV's multicultural and interfaith activities build relationship and create coalitions against racism and discrimination, and in doing so, strengthen our community .

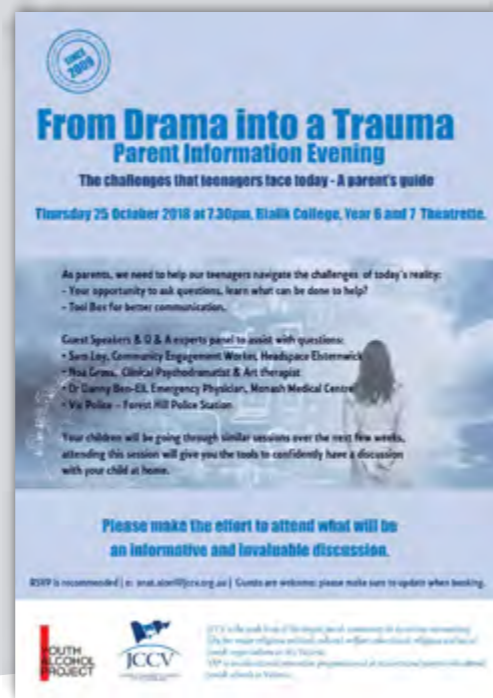
The role of the JCCV has been recognised by the Victorian Government which has continued to be a key financial supporter of our multicultural and interfaith activities. Most recently, the JCCV has received a grant of \$140,000 from the Capacity

Building and Participation Fund managed by the Department of Multicultural Affairs and Social Cohesion.

## COMMUNITY

Social Justice, Inclusion and Community Well-being One of the JCCV's key aim is to ensure that we build a Jewish community which is both open and accepting, and which is focussed on the well-being of its members. One means of doing this is through participation in broader community networks, such as the Alcohol Policy Coalition and Spiritual Health Victoria.

One of the JCCV's key programs is the Youth Alcohol Project (YAP), an educational prevention program which comprises sessions for both parents and students, aimed at educating Year 6 and 7 students regarding issues surrounding alcohol and other substance abuse, and delivering techniques on how to handle peer pressure. The JCCV works with teachers and child psychologists and Victoria Police's Priority Communities Division and Alcohol & Drugs Strategy Unit to develop a structure which accommodates each particular audience.



During 2018 JCCV Project Officer Anat Aloni, working with Executive Member Rimma Sverdlin OAM, has expanded YAP so that it reaches Jewish students at State and Independent Schools by delivering programs to Bar/Bat Mitzvah students in conjunction with the United Jewish Education Board and Spiritgrow. This is in addition to the programs being offered at Jewish Day Schools.

YAP also has a dedicated Facebook page, which provides information and support to parents. We would particularly like to thank the generous donors who have supported YAP over many years.

Family violence is a serious problem in our community, and in late 2017 the JCCV joined with Jewish Care, Tzedek, National Council of Jewish Women of Australia, Unchain My Heart, Maccabi, Progressive Judaism Victoria, Impact, and the Rabbinical Council of Victoria at the Annual Walk Against Family Violence sending a clear message from the Victorian Jewish community that violence against women and children is not acceptable. In February approximately 30 community members and service providers attended an Active Bystander

The JCCV has continued to provide information to community organisations regarding their obligations in the area of child protection, including Victoria's Child Safe Standards and the Federal Government's National Redress Scheme.

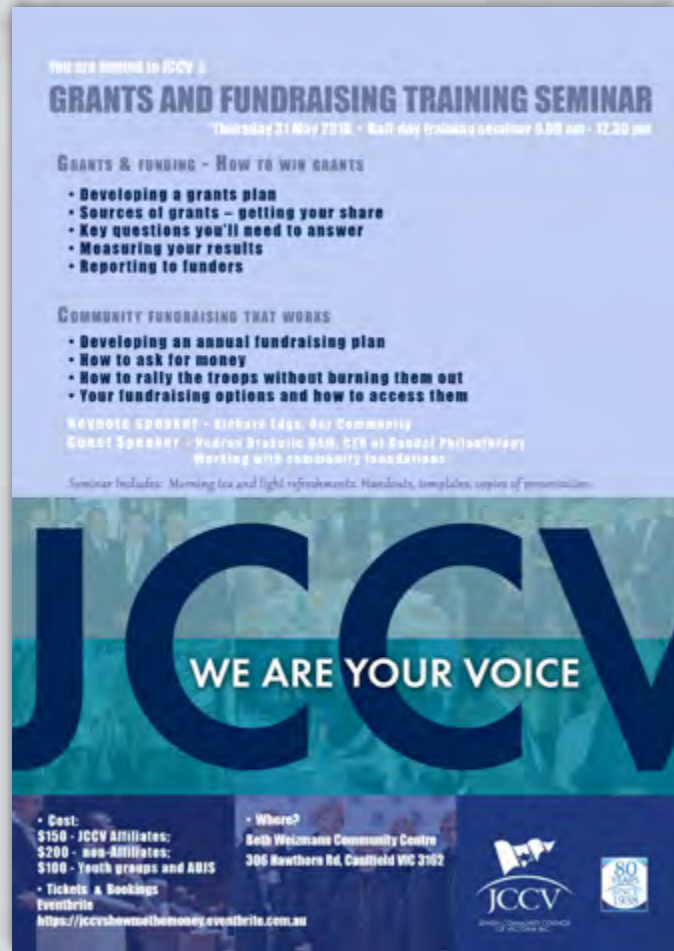
Community engagement and affiliate support With fifty-one major communal organisations as affiliates, the JCCV represents and unites the mosaic

Workshop aimed at preventing gender violence, which was jointly hosted by the JCCV, Jewish Care and Think Prevent. JCCV also participates in the Jewish Care working group on family violence.



of Jewish associations operating in Victoria. The JCCV provides a forum where members of the Victoria Jewish community from across the spectrum can exchange ideas and learn from each other's experiences. Publications such as the JCCV Diary and Directory, and the "What's Nu" newsletter, provide information about Jewish community events and organisations.

The JCCV's professional development program provides opportunities for both staff and volunteers of affiliates to improve their skills and knowledge. This year training sessions offered by the JCCV included a Grants and Fundraising Course for affiliates and other interested members of the community and seminar on philanthropy, which was co-hosted with the Australian Jewish Funders. Feedback from these sessions has been very positive.



Executive members and staff also attend many of the events held during the year by our affiliate organisations, and this forms a vital part of our engagement with the community.

The JCCV office provides assistance to Shoah survivors with restitution applications and certifying Life Certificates, and the JCCV is represented on the Jewish Care Restitution Committee.

### Youth engagement

Early in 2018 JCCV and Zionism Victoria met with representatives from AUJS and Jewish Youth groups to exchange ideas and discuss ways in which our organisations can support the younger members of our community. As always there was a lively discussion regarding the challenges facing these organisations, including anti-semitism on campus, and how to engage the next generation of Jewish leaders.

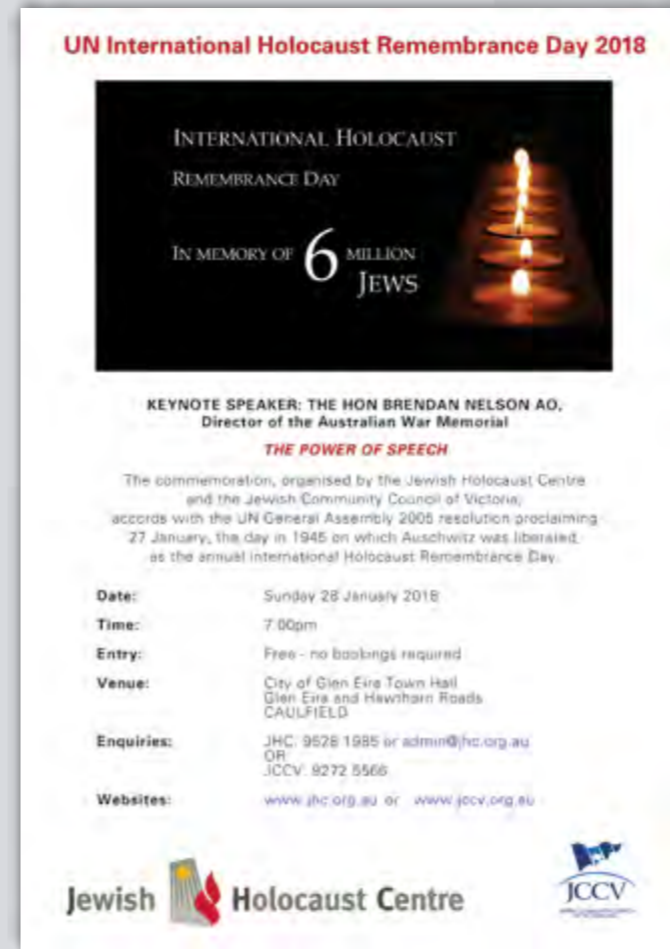
The contribution made to our community by young people is recognised each year by the JCCV Young Leader Award.

### JCCV events

The JCCV's community events are an important feature of the Jewish community calendar. One of key objectives of the JCCV is to perpetuate the memory of the victims of the Shoah, and to promote understanding of the Shoah in the community.

The annual Yom Hashoah Commemoration, held at Robert Blackwood Hall, is a focus of the community's commemoration of the Shoah. This year the commemoration focussed on the theme of Resistance. Randi Grose produced the event and was ably supported by the organising committee

comprising Hilary McMahon, Bram Presser, Nina Bassat AM, Michael Cohen, Ariella Leski and Lena Fizman.



The JCCV and the Jewish Holocaust Centre hosted an event to mark International Holocaust Remembrance Day on 28 January with an event at Glen Eira Town Hall.

Those present heard a moving speech from Brendan Nelson, Director of the Australian War Memorial, and testimony from Moshe Fizman. We also heard from some of the younger members of the community, representing the Fourth Generation. The event was well attended by Politicians,

Diplomats and leaders of a variety of ethnic and faith based communities and Jewish community organisations.

The JCCV co-hosted a number of events with Zionism Victoria, aimed at strengthening ties between the Victorian Jewish Community and Israel. In addition to the Yom Ha'atzmaut Parliamentary Cocktail Reception, the JCCV participated in the Yom Hazikaron Commemoration at Robert Blackwood Hall and co-hosted a boardroom lunch with Professor Aharon Klieman.

Together with the ECAJ, and Zionism Victoria, the JCCV hosted the Victorian launch of Alex Rychin's book, The Anti Israel Agenda.



The JCCV also co-hosted a number of events with other affiliates and community organisations, including, a celebration of the life of Nehama Patkin, held in conjunction with the Australian Jewish Historical Society, and a briefing by Daniel Pipes, co-hosted with AIJAC.

JCCV Plenums, held regularly during the year, bring together JCCV affiliates to discuss issues of importance to the community. Speakers at Plenums this year included Dr Bulent Hass Dellal AO, Chairman, SBS Special Broadcasting Service – Executive Director, The Australian Multicultural Foundation, Deputy Commissioner Andrew Crisp, Victoria Police and Jill Gallagher AO, Commissioner, The Victorian Treaty Advancement Commission. I also extend our thanks to the affiliates who have hosted Plenums during 2018.

## Community Recognition

Each year the JCCV Executive presents the General Sir John Monash Award for Outstanding Service to the Jewish Community to a person who has demonstrated an exceptional and outstanding commitment to the Victorian Jewish Community over a long period of time as well as the JCCV Young Leader Award. This year these awards will be presented at the AGM. Last year's awardees were the late Johnny Baker OAM and Shira Apelboom.



## COMMUNICATION AND MEDIA

The community is well served by a number of media outlets, including The Australian Jewish News, J-Air and J-Wire, each of which provide extensive coverage for the activities of the JCCV and its affiliates. I have appeared on a number of J-Air programs to speak about the JCCV's activities and items of concern to the community. We are grateful for the support of these organisations.

The JCCV uses a variety of media platforms to engage with the community. While the JCCV Directory and Diary continues to be an important

resource for both the Jewish and broader community, the JCCV e-bulletin "What's Nu", and the JCCV website, [jccv.org.au](http://jccv.org.au), in particular the Media Centre and Online Community Calendar, provide up to date information regarding the activities of the JCCV and its affiliates, as well as links to other communal sites, throughout the year.

## COMMUNITY SECURITY GROUP

Led by its CEO, Ricky Perl, the CSG works closely with the Jewish Day Schools, Synagogues and other communal organisations, keeping them informed as to the threats facing our community and providing valuable advice and support.

I would also like to acknowledge the dedication of the CSG volunteers, both those who work directly with the CSG, and the synagogue members and parents at Jewish day schools who volunteer and who devote countless hours to the security of their organisations.

The CSG continues to build on the strong relationships with both Victoria Police and the Australian Federal Police. The CSG held a number of briefings for community organisations during the year at which representatives of Victoria Police provided updates to community leaders.

The CSG has also assisted community organisations with applications for funding for security upgrades to the Federal Government's Safer Communities Fund. Mark Gandur and the CSG Advisory Board continue to ensure that the CSG has funding to carry out its

important work. The Jewish community in Victoria owes a debt of gratitude to the staff and volunteers of the CSG for the time they give to ensuring the protection of the community.

## JEWISH COMMUNITY EMERGENCY AND CRISIS MANAGEMENT

Following discussions with a range of stakeholders, and in order to bring emergency and crisis management in Victoria in line with governance structures in Jewish communities in other states and around the world, the members of Jewish Emergency Management Plan Inc (JEMP Inc) resolved to convert the association into a company limited by guarantee, to be known as Jewish Community Crisis Management Ltd (JCCM). Community Leadership will continue its role in decision making in the event of a crisis, however the CSG Advisory Board has agreed to fundraise for and lend its expertise to JCCM's operations.

Nicole Matejic has been recruited to provide crisis management services to the community, including educating the community, building plans for each key community stakeholder, conducting training and assessment of the community's capabilities, and I look forward to working with her.

For 20 years JEMP Inc, through its Technical Committee, has been tasked with responsibility for establishing and maintaining an emergency management plan for the Jewish community in Victoria, and for liaising with CSG, Hatzolah,

JCCV's August Plenum

The Victorian Treaty Advancement Commission  
The Commission roles and aims

Jill Gallagher, AO  
Commissioner, The Victorian Treaty Advancement Commission

Jill commenced as Victorian Treaty Advancement Commissioner at the start of 2018. A proud Gandiipras women, Jill is a highly respected Victorian Aboriginal leader who has dedicated her life to advocating for self-determination outcomes on behalf of the Victorian Aboriginal community.

She has spent the past 20 years advancing Aboriginal health and wellbeing on behalf of the Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations, including 15 years as CEO.

Monday, August 6, 2018  
5pm-9pm

Lower Jewish Library of Australia  
304 Hawthorn Rd, Caulfield South VIC 3162

FREE EVENT  
RSMV RECOMMENDED  
T: 03 9272 5643 OR Email: [community@jccv.org.au](mailto:community@jccv.org.au)

JCCV



Emergency Service Organisations and local municipalities to ensure that the Jewish community is equipped to deal with a major emergency.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the volunteers who have devoted many hours to this task - Technical Committee members - David Michaelson (JEMP Commander), Rabbi Ronnie Figdor OAM, Andrew Litwinow, Saul Midler, Frank Gaensler, Danny Elbaum and John Schurink (representing Hatzolah), as well as Honorary Secretary Alan Samuel OAM JP and Honorary Treasurer Gary Bryfman. My thanks also go to Executive Administrator, Kathy Kaplan OAM.

## JCCV FUNDING

### Patrons

The achievements of the JCCV outlined in this report would not be possible without the continued generosity, support and encouragement of our Patrons. The funding received from our Patrons guarantees the financial viability of the organisation and ensures that the JCCV has the resources to deliver its program of events and activities.

Estate of Jacob Frenkiel

### The Estate of Jacob Frenkiel

has made a generous donation to support the activities of the JCCV, particularly the Youth Alcohol Project. I express my gratitude to the Executors of the Estate, Richard Greenfield and Emilio Bortington who, through their donations to the JCCV and other Jewish communal organisations, have a lasting impact on the community.

### Victorian Government

As mentioned above, the JCCV has received significant funding from the Victorian Government which facilitates our interfaith and multicultural activities, and we are grateful for this support.

#### Appeals

Members of the community continue to give generously to the JCCV Community Appeal and the Kol Nidrei Appeal, and I thank the community for its continued support it gives to the JCCV through its donations, evidencing the trust the community places in the JCCV and its work.

The Council for Jewish Education in Schools (CJES) is the entity which provides tax deductibility for donations for Jewish education in schools and on University campuses. The CJES is administered by the JCCV, and oversight is by the CJES Committee, comprising Alan Samuel OAM JP, Hilary McMahon and myself. The Council for Jewish Communal Security (CJCS) enables tax deductibility for donations for communal security, for both the operations of the CSG, and security for communal facilities. The CJCS is administered by the CJCS sub-committee, comprising Anton Hermann, Jack Lipson, Graham Goldsmith and myself.

The JCCV also administers the Trude Weiss Foundation for educational support and The Marion and Kurt Lippmann Foundation, which provides scholarships for community professionals. The administration is carried out by Hilary McMahon. My appreciation goes to all those involved in the administration of these funds.

The JCCV has worked closely with the ECAJ in areas which affect the whole of the Australian Jewish community. ECAJ meetings also provide an important forum for the exchange of ideas with leaders of Jewish communities around Australia. The JCCV values the ongoing support and advice provided by the ECAJ President Anton Block, and the ECAJ staff, led by Co-CEO's Peter Wertheim AM and Alex Ryvchin, and the strong representation ECAJ provides for the Jewish community within Australia.



## STAFF & OFFICE

In June David Marlow resigned from the role of the Executive Director of the JCCV. David has given exemplary service during his nearly 5½ years at the helm of the JCCV, and during that time David's relationships with Government and NGO's as well as with the JCCV's affiliates and other Jewish community organisations significantly improved the standing of the organisation both inside and outside the community and ensured that the JCCV has maintained a strong reputation and profile. Throughout 2018 Business Manager Hilary McMahon and Project Officer Anat Aloni have ensured that the JCCV has continued to operate at the highest level.

In addition to her oversight of the finances of the JCCV, CJCS, CJES and the various Foundations

administered by the JCCV, Hilary is a key member of the Yom Hashoah committee, and ensures that JCCV functions and events run smoothly. As mentioned above, Hilary makes a significant contribution in her role at the Victoria Police Community Encounters Program. She also represents the JCCV at events, both within and outside the community.

In addition to her work with YAP and the Active Bystander Training Workshops, which I have outlined above, Anat Aloni has responsibility for managing our website and producing publicity material for JCCV events and programs.

This year the Anti-Defamation Commission decided not to renew its sublease of part of the JCCV offices at Beth Weizmann. This left us with more space that required, so the JCCV has relocated to smaller offices on Level 2 of Beth Weizmann.

I would like to thank the volunteers who devote time to work of the JCCV, in particular Mervyn Chait, Rebecca Pillai and Diane Rose.

## EXECUTIVE

In my second term as JCCV President, I am fortunate to have the backing of a dedicated executive. Members come from diverse backgrounds, representing the breadth of the Jewish Community, and with their mix of experience and youth, bring a variety of skills and perspectives to the JCCV.

I appreciate the support and advice provided by office holders Anton Hermann (Vice President, Governance, Fundraising and Child Protection), Rimma Sverdlin OAM (Community Research & Social Justice), Frances Prince (Multicultural & Interfaith), Doron Abramovici (Social Inclusion & Community Engagement) and Dr Andre Oboler (Online engagement) and Dean Cohen (Strategy), Jack Lipson (Security Liaison) and co-opted executive members, Bram Presser and Isabelle Polgar.

I also work closely with the President of Zionism Victoria, Sharene Hambur, who is a non-voting member of the executive, ensuring that there is a strong working relationship between the two organisations.

The Executive held a successful strategic planning day early in the year, and my thanks go to Alon Cassuto, who volunteered his time as facilitator.



## LOOKING FORWARD

The JCCV has a broad program aimed at:

- maintaining bipartisan support for the Jewish Community from all levels of Government
- ensuring that Victoria remains a socially cohesive society where member of the Jewish community can feel secure; and
- providing services and programs which meet the needs of our diverse affiliates and community members, in particular the younger members of our community.

This would not have been possible without the support of the many people and organisations referred to in this report, in particular the JCCV executive and staff, and the many members of the Jewish community who have participated in our activities during 2018.

**Jennifer Huppert**  
President

**JCCV**  
WE ARE YOUR VOICE

## JCCV MULTICULTURAL & INTERFAITH PORTFOLIO ANNUAL REPORT 2018

**This past year has been replete with many multicultural and interfaith events and initiatives, in which I have represented the Jewish community.**

I continue to serve as JCCV Liaison on the JCMA (Jewish Christian Muslim Association of Australia) Board. The School Program and the Women's Committee go from strength to strength in promoting the values of gaining knowledge and fostering mutual respect. Two excellent conferences were held this year. The Women's Conference examined the theme of 'Women's Place in Rituals and Worship.' Presentations, group discussions, demonstrations and explanations of elements of prayer and rituals from all three faiths, contributed to a weekend of learning and understanding between the three religious communities. Theological discussions- including historical, textual and cultural factors- advanced the depth of appreciation and respect for each other's faiths. The Winter Conference was entitled, 'Listening to G-d and to Each Other: Prayer and Dialogue.' The annual JCMA Friendship Walk- from a mosque to a synagogue to a church- was another most successful event.

As the JCCV Liaison to the FCCV (Faith Communities Council of Victoria) I regularly attend and participate in the Management Committee meetings. Recently I have been voted in as Co Vice

President of the FCCV. The last FCCV's Interfaith Networks Conference took place under the auspices of the Bendigo Interfaith Council. This was the first time that the annual conference took place outside of Melbourne. The forthcoming conference will be hosted by Brimbank and Maribyrnong Interfaith Network. The topic for this conference is 'The Social Costs of Gambling: A Faith Response'.

This year I replaced Dr Helen Light on the Board of the Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria (ECCV). The ECCV is committed to empowering people from culturally diverse communities. Recently, the annual Walter Lippmann Memorial Oration was delivered by Julian Burnside QC on the topic 'Threats to Multiculturalism in Australia.' This was a most interesting and well-attended event.

The JCCV held two Immersion Days with the ICV (Islamic Council of Victoria). During the first visit Muslim communal leaders visited and participated in presentations at St. Kilda Synagogue, The Jewish Museum of Australia and The Jewish Holocaust Centre. During the reciprocal visit,



Jewish participants went to ICV, the Albanian Mosque and the Islamic Museum. Such visits serve to educate, to enlighten and to deepen the relationships between our communities.

Employees from the City of Glen Eira attended a Jewish Immersion Day. They were addressed by a number of Jewish communal leaders and also visited Caulfield Hebrew Congregation and The Jewish Holocaust Centre. Given the demographics of the City of Glen Eira, all participants were eagerly engaged in learning more about our community.

Some other events I participated in include The Australian National Dialogue of Christians, Muslims and Jews, the Multifaith Advisory Group's Day of Prayer for Drought Affected Communities and a presentation on Judaism at the Monash Interfaith Gathering.



I'd like to thank Jennifer Huppert for her leadership and direction and all Executive members for their teamwork, brainstorming and advice. I would also like to thank David Marlow, our former Executive Director, for all his organizing of interfaith activities, and to wish him all the best for the future.

## MULTI FAITH PRAYERS FOR DROUGHT AFFECTED AUSTRALIANS

The Multifaith Advisory Group (MAG) recently held a 'Day of Prayer for Drought Affected Communities'. This event took place at the Zinc Room Federation Square. The Hon. Robin Scott, Minister for Multicultural Affairs addressed the gathering. Helen Kapalos, Chairperson of the Victorian Multicultural Commission, chaired the event. Over a dozen different faith leaders expressed their support for communities impacted upon by the drought. One by one, each representative offered a prayer or a meditation or a reading from within their own tradition. Rabbi Ralph Genende represented the Jewish community. In the words of Minister Robin Scott, the event 'represents the very best of multicultural and multifaith Victoria.'



## Frances Prince Multicultural & Interfaith Portfolio



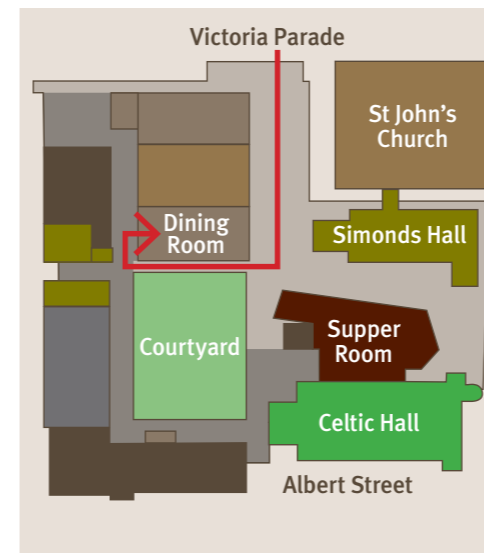
JEWISH AND CATHOLIC

# Friendship Dinner

Sunday, 17 June 2018

7:00pm for 7:30pm start

Catholic Leadership Centre  
Corner Albert street and Hoddle Street,  
East Melbourne



Featuring a dialogue panel on youth in the life of our faith communities

Enter the Centre from Victoria Parade, and follow the walkway next to St John's Church through to the Courtyard and enter from the south side of the Dining Room.

Cost \$50 each for 2 course buffet  
Kosher Meal including drinks.

Book Online (with Credit Card):  
[www.trybooking.com/VSMN](http://www.trybooking.com/VSMN)

Book by Phone or email (for payment by credit card or cheque/cash on the night):

Jewish Community Council of Victoria  
T: 03 9272 5641  
E: [community@jccv.org.au](mailto:community@jccv.org.au)

Bookings close:  
15 June



# SOCIAL JUSTICE REPORT

## YOUTH ALCOHOL PROGRAM (YAP)

An educational prevention program aimed at students and parents who attend Jewish day schools, and is based on persuasive anecdotal evidence, that 12 and 13-year old are exposed to alcohol in private social settings including bar mitzvahs and bat mitzvahs. By addressing this issue proactively, it is expected this could lead to a reduction in binge drinking and related risky behaviour. Based on harm minimisation principles, the program has been developed in collaboration with drug and alcohol experts, educators and medical practitioners. Initially focused on year 6 level 'pre bar/bat mitzvah' aged students and their parents, but has since evolved and expanded: YAP is now involved across a broad spectrum of schools and year levels.

This year as well, YAP continued to be an integral part in many of the Jewish schools in Melbourne providing interactive sessions to both parents and students:

1. Beth Rivkah Ladies College
2. Bialik College
3. Mount Scopus Memorial College
4. Leibler Yavneh College
5. Sholem Aleichem College
6. King David School

This year we have introduced the program to the wider Jewish community and held a fascinating parents session in Spiritgrow Josef Kryss Center.

- Over 500 students have participated in this year's program and few hundred parents.
- 5 parent sessions held this calendar year so far and more to go.

- Over 20 student sessions held this calendar year so far and more are scheduled at this stage.
  - An active Facebook page with tips, tools, information and useful resources.
  - Victoria Police: keeping our community connected: we continue working with Victoria Police and now we have a local police officer participating in the parent sessions in each of the schools.
  - We have continued to expand the program to the wider Jewish community and asked for permission from each school to allow external guests to participate in the parents' sessions and open it to more parents in the community who have kids who do not attend Jewish Schools. This has been once again, proven to be a big step in expanding the project to the broader Jewish community.
  - Feedback given by both parents and students continue to be positive yet, we make sure we address all input and continuously improve the program. The emphasis on a wider scale is provide tools to future generation cope with today's challenges. Feedback from parents included:
    - o "Excellent speakers with very sensible rational approach"
    - o "Very good presentation. Great range of professionals. Thought provoking"
    - o "It was a timely reminder for me as a parent of the risks alcohol presents to teens"
    - o "Very useful. There is always something new to learn"
- "This was an eye opener evening. Thank you for the useful information"



# SOCIAL INCLUSION REPORT

**I would like to take this opportunity to thank all affiliate and non-affiliate community organisations of the JCCV who stand up for the rights of individuals and families.**

Recently, I saw a brilliant production called Dear Evan Hansen, a story about a high school senior with severe social anxiety somehow navigating his way through the social complexities of the schoolyard. The reality of social isolation hits home and highlights the importance of being open to talking about and being receptive to hearing about mental illness.

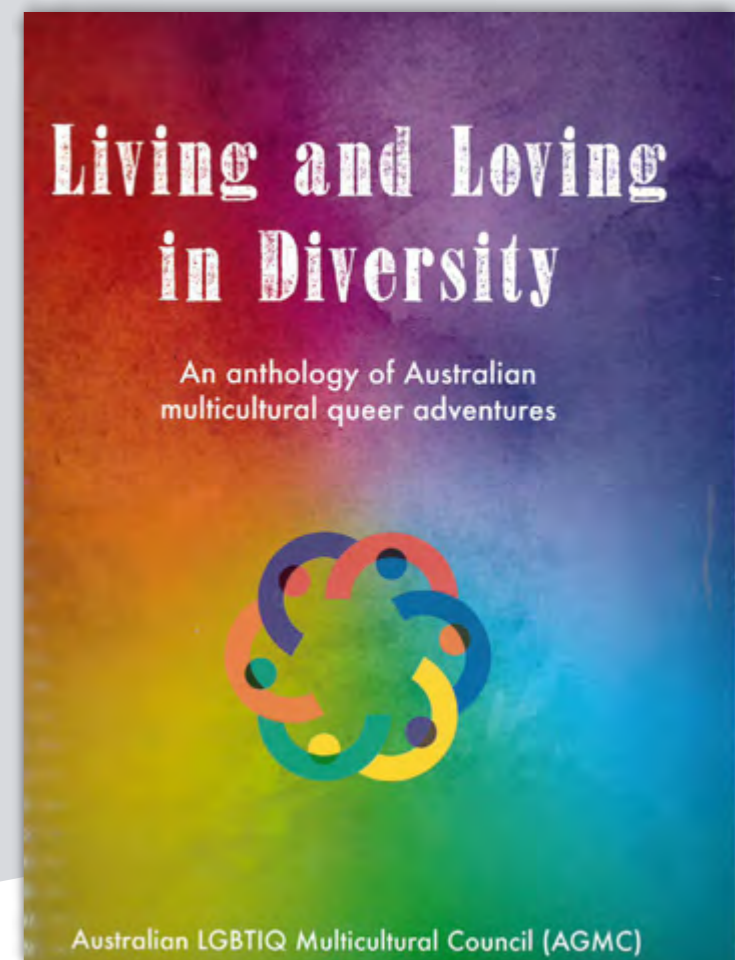
Mental Health and Family Violence are just some of the issues the JCCV has continued to address in 2018. The JCCV liaises with government, other community leaders (often with affiliates) to fight for our community's needs. We fight for financial inclusion and in part, use the recent Gen17 survey to argue our case, we fight for the security interests of our community through our involvement with CSG and we fight for LGBTIQ+ inclusion in our community through our active engagement with the World Congress of GLBT Jews and the Australian GLBT Multicultural Council where 2 articles were submitted this year into their respective publications – Kol Koleinu, From The Closet to the Bimah and Living and Loving in Diversity.

While it is unfortunate that a definitive statement is still required on the subject, the JCCV in conjunction with Jewish Care Victoria jointly issued a statement condemning Conversion Therapy in light of a the recent Preventing Harm, Promoting Justice: Responding to LGBT conversion therapy report by Latrobe University.

To add, I would like to acknowledge Jewish Care's leadership in the area of LGBTIQ+ inclusion given they have commenced the journey of Rainbow Tick accreditation. These initiatives should be available as widely as possible so that young, LGBTIQ+ children can get on with their lives.

As The Hon Michael Kirby AC CMG said, "If I have a resentment, it is that I didn't have much fun when I was young and I think that was an aspect of my sexuality. You were just expected to sublimate it ..." Thankfully, we are now living in progressive times and my wish is that no child will have to sublimate their sexuality or gender identity any longer and endure the internalised homophobia that still exists today in many older generations.

**Doron Abramovici**



# POLICY PLATFORMS

(amended as at 7 August 2017)



SUBJECT		SUBJECT	
1	Preamble	3.15	Jewish Education
2	Our Mandate	3.16	Gender Equity
3	Our Policies	3.17	Youth Representation
3.1	Introduction	3.18	State Ceremonies
3.2	The Victorian Jewish Community	3.19	Accommodation of Religious Practices
3.3	Cultural Diversity	3.20	Jewish Burial Rights
3.4	Interfaith Relations	3.21	Get Refusal
3.5	Racism in Victoria	3.22	Social Justice
3.6	Anti-racist action	3.23	Mental Health
3.7	Respect	3.24	Integration
3.8	Antisemitism	3.25	Aboriginal Reconciliation
3.9	Reporting of Antisemitic Incidents	3.26	Climate Change
3.10	Holocaust Denial	3.27	Stem Cell Research
3.11	Holocaust Rhetoric	3.28	Israel
3.12	Holocaust Remembrance	3.29	Alcohol
3.13	Restitution	3.30	Child Protection
3.14	Terrorism	3.31	Disability

## 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.

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