

**JEWISH COMMUNITY  
COUNCIL OF VICTORIA**  
THE VOICE OF VICTORIAN JEWRY




**ANNUAL REPORT**



JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
OF VICTORIA INC  
מועצת הקהילה היהודית בוויקטוריה  
דייטשער קהילה-ראט פון וויקטאריע

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**THE  
VOICE OF  
VICTORIAN  
JEWRY**

## 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, 21 NOVEMBER 2016 AT 8.00 PM**

At the Beth Weizmann Community Centre  
306 Hawthorn Road, South Caulfield

### **AGENDA**

1. Apologies
2. Adoption of Minutes of the Annual General Meeting – 23 November 2015
3. Address by Liana Buchanan, Commissioner for Children and Young People
4. Presentation of Marion and Kurt Lippmann Scholarship
5. Report of the President, Jennifer Huppert and presentation of the Annual Report
6. Report of the Treasurer, Ian Jones
7. Adoption of Reports
8. Notice of Motion

The following motion will be put to the Plenum:

“That Jewish Community Radio Victoria (J-Air 87.8 FM) be admitted as an affiliate to the Council”

The purpose and objectives of Jewish Community Radio Victoria, to provide radio broadcasting services to the Jewish community of Melbourne on local band 87.8 FM and on the internet for world-wide distribution

9. Appointment of Honorary Solicitors
10. Appointment of Auditors
11. General Business

## About the Jewish Community Council of Victoria

The Jewish Community Council of Victoria is the roof body of 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 Victorian Jewry of more than 52,000 members and to the wider 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 between the various elements of the Victorian Jewish community and between our community and the larger 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 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
- A better society by promoting understanding and cooperation between all faiths
- And in partnership with Zionism Victoria:
  1. A more sophisticated public understanding of Israel’s efforts to achieve peace and security
  2. Effective counteraction of misinformation on Israel, the Middle East and the Arab/Israel conflict
  3. A greater understanding of Israel in relation to contemporary Jewish identity

The JCCV’s priorities are:

- community security and safety
- representation and advocacy to Government
- Shoah remembrance
- social justice
- youth engagement
- media/public relations;
- interfaith and multicultural dialogue
- professional development
- 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	Atida Lipshatz
Honorary Treasurer	Ian Jones

### **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.

## JCCV Executive 2016

### OFFICE BEARERS

President	Jennifer Huppert
Vice President	Atida Lipshatz
Honorary Treasurer	Ian Jones

### PORTFOLIOS

Affiliate Relations	Atida Lipshatz
Governance & Fundraising	Anton Hermann
Community Research & Welfare	Rimma Sverdlin OAM
Interfaith & Multicultural	Frances Prince
Online Engagement	Dr Andre Oboler
Security	Jack Lipson
Social Inclusion & Community Engagement	Doron Abramovici
Co-opted – June 2015	Bram Presser
Co-opted – July 2015	Daniel Nash

### MEMBER OF EXECUTIVE – EX OFFICIO

Zionist Council of Victoria	Sharene Hambur
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## Presidents

Presidents of the Victorian Jewish Advisory Board, Victorian Jewish Board of Deputies and the Jewish Community Council of Victoria Inc.

As at 2014, 28 people have served as President of the Jewish Community Council of Victoria and its predecessor bodies, the Victorian Jewish Advisory Board and the Victorian Jewish Board of Deputies, since its beginnings in 1938. Maurice Ashkanasy served on three non-consecutive terms as President Mr Robert Zablud served for six and half years, making him the longest serving President and Mr Isi Leibler AO CBE served for four and a half years.

### VICTORIAN JEWISH ADVISORY BOARD

Isaac Herbert Boas	1938 - 1939
Archie Michaelis, MLA (later Sir Archie Michaelis Kt)	1939 - 1940

### PROFESSIONAL STAFF

Executive Director	David Marlow
Business Manager	Hilary McMahon
Project Manager	Anat Aloni
Administrative Assistant	Julie Batty

### COMMUNITY SECURITY GROUP

Security Director	Ricky Pearl
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The Victorian Jewish Advisory Board officially changed its name to the Victorian Jewish Board of Deputies on 7 May 1947 and became an affiliate of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry when the body was formed in August 1944. On 10 October 1988 the Victorian Jewish Board of Deputies officially changed its name to the Jewish Community Council of Victoria. In 2000 the Jewish Community Council of Victoria became an incorporated entity.

Dr Jacob Jona	1940 - Dec 1942
Alex Masel	Dec 1942 - Nov 1946
Maurice Ashkanasy	Dec 1946 - 7 May 1947

## 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	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	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 2016

### BOARD OF PATRONS

Bassat Family	D & G Goldsmith
Barry and Suzi Carp	Jack Gringlas OAM
Besen Family Foundation	Joshua Liberman
Erdi Group	The Naphtali Family Foundation
Alan and Elizabeth Finkel	
Gandel Philanthropy	Pratt Foundation

### COUNCILLORS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIAN JEWRY

Dr Dvir Abramovich	Atida Lipshatz
Anton Block	Tom May
Sharene Hambur	Dr Andre Oboler
Jennifer Huppert	John Searle
Dr Danny Lamm	Sam Tatarka

## Plenum Meeting Dates for 2017

6 FEBRUARY	8 PM		5 JUNE	8 PM	
6 MARCH	8 PM		7 AUGUST	8 PM	
3 APRIL	8 PM	Council of Presidents	4 SEPTEMBER	8 PM	Council of Presidents
8 MAY	8 PM	Emmy Monash Aged Care	15 NOVEMBER	7.30 PM	Community Awards Evening
			20 NOVEMBER	8 PM	Annual General Meeting





The Hon Daniel Andrews MP

Premier of Victoria

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

D16/175704

**MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER**

I'm delighted to send my best wishes to the Jewish Community Council of Victoria as you reflect on a year of good work and prepare for the year ahead.

Victoria's Jewish community continues to make an incalculable social, economic and cultural contribution to our State.

I am proud to be part of a state that honours and respects the spirit of multiculturalism and cohesion, and I am proud to lead a government that supports our Jewish community.

On behalf of the Victorian Government, I wish you a successful and productive Annual General Meeting for 2016.

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**

I welcome this opportunity to extend my best wishes to the Jewish Community Council of Victoria (JCCV) as it meets for its Annual General meeting for 2016.

JCCV's reputation as an authoritative, accessible and reliable representative of our State's Jewish community is well known to all.

We all value the enormous contribution of the Jewish Community Council of Victoria (JCCV) and the entire Jewish community, to the strength, prosperity and vibrancy of our society.

During this year we have seen the tireless efforts of the JCCV who continues to consistently, demonstrates outstanding leadership and support to the Jewish community, and whose efforts strengthen Victoria's relationship with Israel.

The JCCV's enormous contribution to our State's strength has seen it be at the forefront of Victoria's interfaith and intercultural movement, playing a vital role in fostering genuine interfaith engagement through diverse and far-reaching programs and initiatives.

Programs and initiatives that continue to strengthen relationships between the Jewish faith, and other faith communities and help to maintain the social cohesion and community harmony Victoria is renowned for.

Cultural diversity is part of the Australian story. From the distinct languages and beliefs of our Indigenous cultures, to the legacy of migration that followed, this country has always been multicultural and one of State's greatest strength.

Diversity defines us and underpins Victoria's identity as a successful multicultural society that accepts diversity is central to its future.

The Liberal Nationals Coalition recognises the exceptional work the JCCV continues to do, both with the Jewish community and the wider Victorian Community, in enriching and contributing to Victoria's society, culture and economy and its contribution to strengthening one of our State's greatest assets.

On behalf of the Liberal Nationals Coalition, 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.

17-10-16

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

matthewguy.com.au @matthewguymp /matthewguymp





October 2015  
Cheshvan 5776

**Message to the Jewish Community Council of Victoria from Ambassador Ben-Shmuel**

It is my privilege and gives me great pleasure to offer sincere best wishes and a congratulatory message to the members of the Jewish Community Council of Victoria on the occasion of the Annual General Meeting.

I would like to thank leaders past and present who dedicate themselves and give of their time, energy and abilities to an organisation that does so much for Israel- who help us brace ourselves against enduring and imminent challenges yet still look to the future with positivity and hope.

I wholeheartedly congratulate President Jennifer Huppert for her dedication and support of this great cause and I would also like to extend my compliments to the entire council on their successes, achievements and progress over the past year.

The strength of the special relationship between Australia and Israel is a testament and a credit to organisations like the JCCV. I would also like to recognise and thank my good friend former president Nina Bassat AM for her continued and outstanding service to the Victorian Jewish community and the State of Israel.

International solidarity has never been so crucial at a time when regional instability and the threat of those seeking to undermine our legitimacy and the right to a peaceful existence have reached breaking point. Innocent Israelis are fearful of just going about their daily routine and the situation is getting worse.

Thank you to the JCCV for your enduring support. The solidarity of Zionist communities across the world and the activities in Australia are a much-needed source of hope and inspiration. We are reassured of the ongoing dedication and vitality of Victorian Jewry in part from the impressive work of this organisation. Just a glance at the JCCV on-line communal calendar is an encouraging tribute and reminder that the JCCV is at the forefront of the Victorian Jewish community's development and wellbeing.

I wish the Jewish Community Council of Victoria the very best for the forthcoming year and I want to express my genuine personal gratitude to your organisation and for the essential work that you do. The significant contribution by the JCCV to the State of Israel and both the Jewish and wider Victorian community cannot be understated.

Thank you for your unwavering support and passion for Israel and her people.

*S. Ben Shmuel*

H.E. Shmuel Ben-Shmuel  
Ambassador of Israel to Australia



**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**  
Robert M Goot AM, SC

**DEPUTY PRESIDENT**  
Jillian Segal AM

**HON. TREASURER**  
Peter Wise

**HON. SECRETARY**  
Sharene Hambur

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
Peter Wertheim AM

**VICE PRESIDENTS**  
Jeremy Spinak (NSW)  
Jennifer Huppert (VIC)  
David Denver (WA)  
Jason Steinberg (QLD)  
Norman Schueler (SA)  
Daniel Albert (TAS)  
Yael Cass (ACT)

**IMM. PAST PRESIDENT**  
Dr Danny Lamm

**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  
Council of Orthodox Synagogues of Australia

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

20 October 2016

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

Dear Jennifer

**Message for Jewish Community Council of Victoria 2016 Annual Report**

Both personally and on behalf of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry, I wish to extend a hearty Mazal Tov to you on another successful year as President and to congratulate your Honorary Officers, members of the Executive, and staff for their fine service to the Victorian Jewish community.

This year has posed numerous challenges ranging from threats to your community's physical security through to incidents arising from the 2016 Federal Election. In each case, through strong advocacy and effective leadership, the JCCV has met the challenges posed to it.

As ever, this year has seen a number of outstanding JCCV events, which have shown the Australian public the richness and variety of Jewish life and have served to deepen the bond between our community and our fellow Australians.

We also commend the JCCV for its contribution to policy at a national level.

We also congratulate you on your recent appointment as a member of the Board of the Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission (VEOHRC). This is a great credit both to you and the JCCV.

We wish you success in the remaining years of your presidency and congratulate you and your team on a highly successful year.

With warmest regards

*Robert Goot*

Robert Goot AM SC  
President



Beth Weizmann Community Centre  
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President  
**Sharene Hambur**  
Vice Presidents  
**Jeff Morrison**  
Hon. Treasurer  
**Mory Kalkopf**  
Executive Director  
**Jane Rapke**



**President of Zionism Victoria to the Jewish Community Council of Victoria 2016**

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.

Once again the JCCV under the presidency of Jennifer Huppert has been in the forefront of representing the Victorian Jewish Community through its work with other religious and ethnic groups. At the same time it has provided valuable resources to the Jewish community through programs such as its Mental Health forums and Youth Alcohol Project.

Zionism Victoria has continued to have a close collaborative relationship with the JCCV and we have worked together on many activities and projects including a model Seder for members of the Victorian Parliament and the co-hosting of the annual Yom Ha'atzmaut Cocktail Reception for parliamentarians and other civic leaders.

I congratulate Jennifer together with her Executive Director, David Marlow and office staff Hilary McMahon, Julie Batty and Anat Aloni on the achievements of the JCCV over the past twelve months and wish them well for the year ahead.

On a personal note, I have valued the close working relationship that I have established with Jennifer and look forward to continuing this in the year to come.

The JCCV can be rightly proud of its achievements over the past twelve months and Zionism Victoria looks forward to continuing to work with the JCCV in the year to come for the benefit of the Victorian Jewish community.

I wish you hatzlacha raba for all your endeavours.

Sharene Hambur  
President



**President's Report - 2016**

**INTRODUCTION**

2016 has been another challenging but successful year for the Jewish Community Council of Victoria. The JCCV continues to advocate for the Jewish Community in Victoria, and build on the 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. The JCCV seeks to strengthen 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. With fifty-five major communal organisations as affiliates, the JCCV represents and unites the mosaic of Jewish associations operating in Victoria.

**REPRESENTATION – Political, Police, Interfaith and Multicultural**

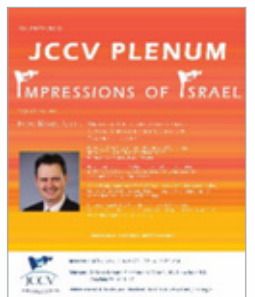
**POLITICAL**

The strong bipartisan support for the Jewish community and Israel from all sides of the politics in Victoria continues. Since the last AGM the JCCV has held meetings with the Premier, the Daniel Andrews MP and the leader of the Opposition, Matthew Guy MP, and as well as a number of Ministers and members of Parliament. Topics of discussion included anti-semitism and racism, security and Jewish education in schools. I met with both James Merlino MP, Deputy Premier and Minister for Education (accompanied by Dr Dvir Abramovich, Chair of the Anti-Defamation Commission) and the Robin Scott, the Minister for Finance and Minister for Multicultural Affairs (accompanied by Sam Tatarka, Immediate Past President of Zionism Victoria), to address the inclusion of the play "Tales of a City by the Sea" on the VCE drama list of 2016. These meetings led to a review of criteria for selection of works by the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority. 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 Windsor Hotel, was well attended by many members of Parliament, the Judiciary, consular corps and representatives from many faith and ethnic communities. In the lead up to the Federal Election, the JCCV also met with a number of Federal politicians to discuss issues



of concern to the Victorian Jewish Community, including security funding. The JCCV also made a submission to the Senate Inquiry into the partial suspension of sanctions against Iran. Other key events held during the year included the annual Politicians' Jewish Immersion Day, attended by State and Local Politicians representing the ALP, Liberal Party and Greens

Party, as well as policy makers, which included visits to Jewish Care, Temple Beth Israel, the Jewish Museum of Australia and the Jewish Holocaust Centre. In a new initiative, the JCCV, Zionism Victoria and the Parliamentary Friends of Israel hosted a "model seder" at Parliament House. The lunch was attended by 30 members of Parliament, from the ALP, Liberal Party, Greens and DLP. Federal State and Local politicians have also attended, and spoken at, several JCCV events during the year, including members of both the State Government and Opposition who visited Israel during the year. The JCCV is grateful for the support of the co-chairs of the Victorian Parliamentary Friends of Israel Group, Marsha Thompson MP and David Southwick MP, both of whom received the Jerusalem Prize at the Zionism Victoria Annual Assembly in recognition of their efforts in building support for Israel and the Jewish Community.



**POLICE**

The JCCV continues to work cooperatively with Victoria Police in a variety of areas. The JCCV is a member of both the Victoria Police Multicultural Portfolio Reference Group and the Victoria Police Interfaith Council, where it is well represented by David Marlow. Hilary McMahon participates in the Community Encounters program for police and PSO recruits, working with cadets to improve their cultural awareness and sensitivity at the Police Academy. Participation in these programs provides the opportunity to increasing understanding of the Jewish community and its needs, as well providing an avenue for input into policy settings and decision making at the highest level. The JCCV, and the Community Security Group, continue to build relationships with members of Victoria Police, through both briefings with relevant officers, and events such as the annual "Shmooze with the Blues" lunch, held before Rosh Hashana. The JCCV and CSG have also met with the acting Minister for Police, Wade Noonan, and the Parliamentary Secretary for Justice, Ben Carroll, and the Parliamentary Secretary spent a morning touring Jewish Community Institutions in the Caulfield/East St Kilda area. Andrew Crisp, Deputy Commissioner of Regional Operations at Victoria Police, has attended many JCCV events during the year.

**MULTICULTURAL AND INTERFAITH**

Victoria has a strong multicultural society, which has the support of all major political parties. The JCCV continues to build on its relationship with a variety of interfaith



## President's Report

and multicultural groups, and is a participant in a number of organisations and forums, both in the Government and NGO sector. These activities build relationship and create coalitions against racism and discrimination, and in doing so, strengthen our community. 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 Citizenship, holding meetings with Helen Kapalos, the Victorian Multicultural Commissioner, as well as other members of the VMC. As well as developing bilateral ties with other faith based and ethnic communities through events and dinners, the JCCV is an active member of the Jewish Christian Muslim



Association (JCMA), the Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria (ECCV), Faith Communities Council of Victoria (FCCV) and Spiritual Care Victoria. Following the shootings in Orlando, JCCV joined with other faith based groups to issue a statement against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia, and representatives of the JCCV participated in a multi-faith service held at St Paul's Cathedral. Highlights of the multicultural and interfaith calendar in 2016 have included the JCMA Friendship walk, held in both Melbourne and Ballarat, dinners with African communities, the first JCCV/Islamic Council of Victoria Iftar Dinner, the 12th Annual Jewish Catholic Friendship Dinner, and a Shavuot reception with the Victorian Council of Churches. Events such as these have tangible results, such as the Young AICC Somali Graduate Mentoring Program, which arose from connections made at the JCCV Jewish/African Communities Dinner held in early 2016.



### COMMUNITY

The Victorian Jewish community is known for its vibrancy and diversity, and one of the JCCV's key aims is ensure that we build a Jewish community which open and accepting. 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, which this year included a session led by Adam Slonim on aimed at helping participants "keep their cool" provides opportunities for both staff and volunteers of affiliates to improve their skills and knowledge. Engagement with the younger members of the community continues to be a focus. Early in 2016 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 the community. Youth representation at plenums ensures that the voices of the younger members of our community are heard.



### INCLUSION AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

The JCCV has continued its participation in the Social Inclusion Leadership Committee (SILC), chaired by David Southwick MP, which is working to improve access for those with a disability in all areas of communal life. Originally sponsored by Jewish Care, SILC will now become a JCCV project. In March the Minister for Multicultural Affairs and Finance, the Robin Scott, launched a new video developed by the JCCV's young LGBTI advisory group, JADE, to highlight that Jews of diverse sexual orientation and gender identity are welcome members of the community. At the same event the JCCV's LGBTI Services Booklet was also launched. The members of the JCCV LGBTI Working Group, Doron Abramovici, Sally Goldner, Julie Leder, Andrew Rajcher, Rita Rousso, Anat Aloni and David Marlow, and JADE, Nevo Zisin, Margot fink, Sam Lilit, Menachem Cylich, Itamar Naftali and Doron Abramovich the JCCV in its initiatives to address the mental health and other issues facing the Jewish LGBTI community, and I take this opportunity to thank the them for their contribution.

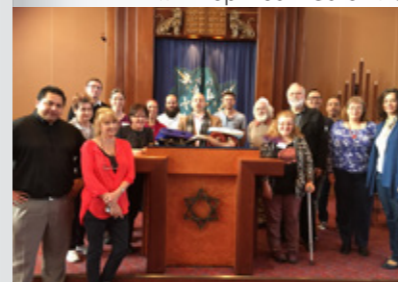
### COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELLBEING

The JCCV has continued to highlight issues affecting the health and wellbeing of the Community through events such as Mental Health Forum and Drug and Alcohol Prevention Forum, and participation in the Alcohol Policy Coalition. Minister for Mental Health and Equality, Martin Foley, opened the Mental Health Forum, which was aimed at opening the discussion on mental health issues across the community. I acknowledge the work of the JCCV's Mental Health Advisory Group, comprising Nina Bassat AM, Rimma Sverdlin OAM, Dr George Halasz, Dr Nicky Jacobs, Cassandra Barrett, Bram Presser, Barbara Harris, Simona Weinstein, Dr Helen Light AM, Mina Shafer, Tania

Grunfeld, Marilyn Kraner, Anat Aloni and David Marlow which assisted with the planning of the Forum. The JCCV Youth Alcohol Project (YAP) provides educational programs

## President's Report

for Jewish day school students and their parents regarding alcohol misuse, which include presentations by psychologists, doctors, Victoria Police and Hatzolah. The YAP Facebook page provides an additional means of communicating YAP's message to parents and students. After 10 years in the role as YAP Project Officer, Debbie Zauder has left the JCCV, and JCCV Project Officer Anat Aloni has taken over responsibility for coordinating YAP, together with executive member and YAP Committee chair Rimma Sverdlin OAM and committee members Ruth Casen, Ronit Lewis, Brian Samuel, Ann Wollner and Rabbi Daniel Rabin. This year, YAP has delivered programs at Mt Scopus Memorial College, Bialik College and Shalom Aleichem School, and feedback received from participants highlights the impact it is having on both parents and students. Once again JCCV held a pastoral care immersion day for pastoral care workers from around the state, which forms part of a formal subject at the University of Divinity. Fifteen spiritual carers from various religious faiths and hospitals participated, and they heard from a wide variety of speakers and had a rich immersion into Jewish history, tradition and explanation of Jewish pastoral needs. David Marlow has worked with Spiritual Care Victoria, and Jewish communal organisations, including the Rabbinical Council of Victoria, Chabad Youth, Temple Beth Israel and Kehilat Nitzan, to develop an accreditation process for Jewish community spiritual carers, which will be fully implemented in 2017. With support of Gandel Philanthropy and Hatzolah,



the JCCV has acquired an additional defibrillator which is available for use by JCCV affiliates and other community organisations at major events. The JCCV has also been active in the area of domestic violence, organising a workshop aimed at preventing family violence by providing "active bystander" training, and partnered with other organisations in family violence prevention programs. Assistance to Shoah survivors with restitution applications and certifying Life Certificates continues to be an important task, and JCCV is represented on the Jewish Care Restitution Committee

### CHILD PROTECTION

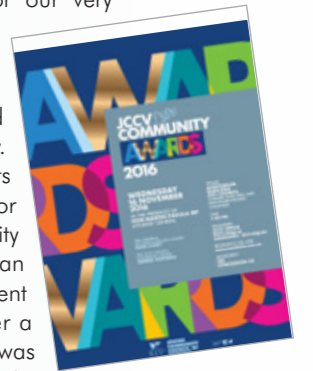
For the third year, the JCCV delivered a Child Protection Policy Training Program aimed to help Jewish community organisations, schools and synagogues establish effective policies and practices to help protect children from child sexual abuse. The JCCV has also been active in promoting the Victorian Betrayal of Trust Child Safe Standards, which all communal organisations will be required to comply with from 1 January 2017. We are delighted that Liana Buchannan,



Victoria's Commissioner for Children and Young People will be addressing this year's AGM. In addition, the JCCV participated in a Multicultural Forum held by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, and made a further submission to the Royal Commission, focusing on some of the issues raised on the Commission's Consolation Paper into "Best practice principles in responding to complaints of child sexual abuse in institutional contexts".

### COMMUNITY RECOGNITION

It is no secret that volunteers make an enormous contribution to our community. The dedication and commitment of volunteers ensures the continuity of the organisations they volunteer for, and for our very community, often with little recognition or fanfare. At this year's Annual Awards Evening volunteers nominated by 20 of the JCCV's affiliates were honoured for their years of service to the community. 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. This year the award was presented to Susie Ivany in recognition of his many years of service to the Jewish community in a variety of organisations, including NCJWA, Jewish Care and Unchain my Heart. I am also delighted that Jemima Hoffman has been awarded the JCCV Young Leader Award in recognition of her contribution to the community, particularly for her work with Stand Up. The JCCV continued its role as the administrator of the Marion and Kurt Lippmann Foundation scholarship program, which provides an annual scholarship to a young communal professional for professional development.



### COMMUNITY EVENTS

The JCCV's community events are an important feature of the Jewish community calendar. JCCV Plenums, which bring together JCCV affiliates to discuss issues of importance to the community, are the backbone of the organisation. This year we have been fortunate to hold Plenums at St Kilda Hebrew Congregation, Jewish Care and Mizrahi, and speakers have included the Robin Scott, Minister for Multicultural Affairs and Finance, Andrew Holden, at that time editor of The Age, Rabbi James Kennard, Dr Colin Rubenstein and Rebecca Mackenzie, CEO of Glen Eira City Council. Holocaust Commemoration is one of the JCCV's key tasks, and this year the JCCV participated in the following events aimed at commemorating the victims of the Holocaust, and increasing understanding of the Holocaust in the community:





## President's Report



- United Nations Holocaust Memorial Day, held in conjunction with the Jewish Holocaust Centre;
- the Yom Hashoah Commemoration held at Robert Blackwood Hall;
- the 75th Anniversary Commemoration of Babi Yar, held at the Jewish Holocaust Centre in conjunction with various Russian speaking community organisations; and
- the Jewish Holocaust Centre's Kristallnacht commemoration. I would like to make special mention of the Yom Hashoah Committee of Randi Gross, Hilary McMahon, Michael Cohen, Nina Bassat, Ariella Leski, Bram Presser, Lena Fisman and Matan Franco, who ensure that the Community commemoration at Robert Blackwood Hall is meaningful and relevant. Other annual events include:
  - participating in the Yom Hazikaron Commemoration at Robert Blackwood Hall co-ordinated by Zionism Victoria;
  - Yom Ha'atzmaut Parliamentary Cocktail Reception co-hosted with Zionism Victoria; and
  - the JCCV Community Awards evening, which recognises the contribution made by volunteers within the community. I would like to express my thanks to Randi Gross also makes an important contribution to the production of the JCCV Community Awards evening. The JCCV mission includes strengthening ties between the Victorian Jewish community and Israel, and we hosted or co hosted several events with a focus on Israel during the year, including:
    - the Community Memorial Service for Shimon Perez z"l;
    - a number of events with Jewish Care for an Israeli Delegation attending the World Congress of the International Association for the Scientific Study of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities; and .
    - an evening with Professor Efraim Inbar, Director of the Began Sadat Centre for Strategic Studies at Bar Ilan University, retired Major General Yaacov Amidror and Israeli Journalist author and political commentator, Ehud Yaari. Other events held during the past year include:
      - presentation by retired Judge Eugene Hyman of the Californian Supreme Court, co-hosted with The Jewish Taskforce Against Family Violence; and
      - presentation by Dr Elena Sztokman, NCJWA Scholar in Residence. The JCCV also participated in the In One Voice festival, a Jewish street festival held in Elsternwick. Although ours is a diverse community, it is marked by the level cooperation between the various communal organisations, and I am delighted that we have been able to work with a number of different organisations, including Zionism Victoria, the Zionist Federation of Australia, Australia Israel and Jewish Affairs Council, Jewish Care, Jewish Holocaust Centre, and NCJWA in bringing events and services to the community.

## COMMUNICATION AND MEDIA

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), and 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. This year David Marlow and I have appeared on a number of different programs on J-Air Radio, and we continue to receive media coverage from The Australian Jewish News and J-Wire. The ongoing support of those organisations is acknowledged.



## COMMUNITY SECURITY GROUP

The professional staff and volunteers of the Community Security Group (CSG), led by CEO Ricky Perl, continue in their commitment to the protection of the Victorian Jewish community. After many years of service to CSG Victoria, Justin Lipson taken up a role with CSG NSW. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Justin for his contribution to the operations of CSG over many years. The CSG works closely with the Jewish Day Schools, Synagogues and other communal organisations, and liaises regularly with both Victoria Police and the Australian Federal Police, striking an important balance between ensuring the security of the community, and informing the community of the risks it is facing. The CSG could not operate without the financial support of the community, and the Advisory Board, ably led by Mark Gandur continues to ensure that the CSG has funding to carry out its important work. In this time of heightened security, 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 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN



The Jewish Emergency Management Plan (JEMP) through its Technical Committee continues to work closely with both CSG, Hatzolah, Emergency Service Organisations and local municipalities to ensure that the Jewish community is equipped to deal with a major emergency. The activities of JEMP are outlined in detail in the separate JEMP Report, but I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for the commitment of JEMP's Executive Administrator, Kathy Kaplan, JEMP Commander David Michaelson and the other members of the JEMP Technical Committee: Danny Elbaum and Ronit Lewis representing Hatzolah, Ricky Perl and Jesse Coppel representing CSG, Rabbi Ronnie

## President's Report

Figdor, Frank Gaensler, Andrew Litwinow and Saul Midler. Prior to his departure from CSG, Justin Lipson was also a member of the Technical Committee.

## 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 can continue to deliver its program of events and activities.

### Estate of Jacob Frenkiel

Once again the Estate of Jacob Frankiel 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.

### 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.

## COUNCIL FOR JEWISH EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS, COUNCIL FOR JEWISH COMMUNAL SECURITY, TRUDE WEISS FOUNDATION, THE MARION & KURT LIPPMANN FOUNDATION

The Council for Jewish Education in Schools (CJES) is the entity which provide 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 JP, Hilary McMahon and myself. The Council for Jewish Communal Security (CJCS) enable 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 Ian Jones, Jack Lipson, Anton Block and myself. In addition to the CJES and CJCS, the JCCV administers the Trude Weiss Foundation for educational support and The Marion and Kurt Lippmann Foundation. The administration is carried out by Hilary McMahon, and Ian Jones is responsible for compliance. My appreciation goes to all those involved in the administration of these funds.

## ECAJ

The JCCV values the ongoing relationship with the Executive and staff of the ECAJ. Many of the issues facing the Jewish community in Victoria are not isolated to this State, the JCCV benefits greatly from the support and exchange of ideas with the ECAJ President, Robert Goot AM SC as well as interaction with community leaders from around Australia. The ECAJ staff, Peter Wertheim, Alex Ryvchin and Julie Nathan continue to provide support to the JCCV and its staff.

Through the ECAJ the Victorian Jewish community is able to have an input in the national arena, and the community is also appreciative of the strong representation ECAJ provides for Australia within World Jewry.

## EXECUTIVE & STAFF

I am fortunate to have the backing of a dedicated executive, and I appreciate the support and advice provided by office holders Atida Lipshutz (Vice President & Affiliate Support), Ian Jones (Treasurer), Rimma Sverdlin (Community Research & Social Justice) and Anton Hermann (Governance, Fundraising and Child Protection), (Multicultural & Interfaith), Doron Abramovici (Social Inclusion & Community Engagement) and Dr Andre Oboler (Online engagement) as well as Jack Lipson (Security Liaison) and co-opted executive members, Bram Presser and Daniel Nash. 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 good working relationship between the two organisations.

The Executive members come from diverse backgrounds, representing the breadth of the Jewish Community, and bring a variety of skills and perspectives, but work cooperatively to ensure the success of the JCCV. Working for a Jewish communal organisation can be a thankless task, and I am delighted to have the opportunity to ensure that the JCCV professional staff receive due recognition. Executive Director David Marlow is an outstanding representative of the JCCV and advocate for the Jewish community, whose innovative leadership is acknowledged both within and outside the Jewish community. Since joining the JCCV, David has increased the profile of the JCCV in the general community, and has also developed important relationships with the JCCV's affiliates and other Jewish community organisations. David also plays a central role in publicising the activities of the JCCV through traditional and social media, and he ensures that the JCCV office operates effectively and efficiently. I value the advice and support he provides. Business Manager Hilary McMahon's name is synonymous with the JCCV, and her contribution to the JCCV is much broader than indicated by her title. Hilary is a key member of the JCCV team, who oversees the finances of the JCCV, the CJCS, CJES and the Foundations, but is also a key member of the Yom Hashoah committee, ensures that JCCV functions and events run smoothly. Hilary also presents on Jewish life to cadets at the Victorian Police Academy. During 2016 Anat Aloni role as project officer expanded to



## President's Report

include responsibility for YAP, and she continues to make a significant contribution to the JCCV's projects, participating in its working groups and committees, and producing flyers and other marketing material. Administrative Assistant Julie Batty responsibilities include minutes, reports, data entry, advertising and fundraising and general assistance. She is the face and voice of JCCV, sitting at the reception desk and answering the phone, and her contributions is appreciated. In addition to the volunteers and members of the committees, working groups and reference groups outlined above, I would like to thank volunteers Mervyn Chait, Anne Livnat, Lily McArthy, Rebecca Pillai, Julia Cher and Diane Rose

### LOOKING FORWARD

As you can see from this report, and the reports submitted by the Executive Director and Portfolio Holders, the JCCV has a broad agenda. The Jewish community in Victoria is constantly evolving, and our challenge moving forward is to ensure that we remain relevant to the community, and continue to provide services and programs which meet the needs of our diverse affiliates and community members. At the same time the JCCV must be flexible, with the ability to respond to external challenges, such as anti-semitism and threats to the safety and security of our community. This is not an easy task, and I appreciate the support and encouragement of the JCCV Executive and Staff, and the many members of the Jewish community who have participated in our activities during 2016, and I hope that you will continue to support the important work of the JCCV in 2017.

Jennifer Huppert

## President's Report



## Executive Director's Report

The health and welfare of the community has been a special focus of the JCCV over the past twelve months, while issues of community safety and security have been paramount.

While we have been implementing initiatives in mental health, youth alcohol and drug abuse prevention, spiritual care in hospitals and child protection, issues in the Middle East and Europe continue to affect community sentiment and concerns in Victoria. To address these issues and their affects on our community, we have continued to focus on Government advocacy, relationship building with other communities, and furthering relationships with and education of Victoria Police and working with CSG on matters of community security and safety.

To address these issues, we have worked closely with key organisations in the Jewish community, as well as the Premier, key Ministers, the Leader of the Opposition, leaders of the major faith and cultural communities, Victoria Police and other partners to maintain community peace and harmony, and prevent the spread of violent extremism which would seek to harm our community's way of life.

With his in mind, the JCCV's areas of focus over the year have been:

### • Government Advocacy:

through submissions, meetings, education and other activities, we aim to obtain a more understanding and supportive political environment to meet the needs of the Victorian Jewish community.

### • Social Cohesion:

working with Government, Victoria Police and other faith & cultural communities to ensure community harmony and safety, so that we can live confidently and safely as Jews in Victoria.

### • Health & Welfare:

improving the health and welfare of the community, and especially Jewish youth, through initiatives in mental health, spiritual care, drugs & alcohol, and child protection.

### • Social Inclusion:

working towards social inclusion in the Jewish community, to ensure all community members feel free and welcome to participate and contribute to the community.

### • Holocaust Remembrance:

through major commemorative events and bringing politicians and other community leaders to the Jewish Holocaust Centre, we aim to ensure that the lessons of the Holocaust are not forgotten, and that people understand the longer term impact on the Jewish community.

### • Community Development:

ensuring community strength and continuity through major events, enhancing community leadership, and building cross-communal synergies.

## Government Advocacy

This was a very active year in Government advocacy for the JCCV including:

- Meetings with the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition on a wide variety of community issues, with particular focus on antisemitism, Israel and community security
- Meetings with Ministers including Julie Bishop, James Merlino, Martin Foley, Robin Scott, Wade Noonan and Parliamentary Secretary for Justice Ben Carroll on issues as diverse as Israel, Jewish education in schools, respectful relationship education, community security, LGBTI social inclusion and mental health
- Organised a JCCV Jewish community politicians' immersion day with members of parliament, local Mayors and policymakers, introducing them to Jewish Melbourne, and the issues faced by our community, including antisemitism, community safety, the growing need for aged care and welfare services, and the community's concerns regarding Israel, while also reducing stereotypes.
- Developed submissions to the Federal Government on continuing sanctions against Iran, the Royal Commission on Child Abuse in Religious Institutions and the Royal Commission on Family Violence
- Continued advocacy to defend s.18C of the **Racial Discrimination Act** to help protect the community against antisemitism
- Led a coalition of community and faith groups to review the effectiveness of the Victorian **Racial & Religious Tolerance legislation** to develop recommendations for improvement to the Victorian Government
- **Yom Haatzmaut Community Cocktail Reception** with members of State and Federal Parliament held at the prestigious Windsor Hotel in partnership with Zionism Victoria
- **Passover 'Model Seder' Lunch** with State members of Parliament to develop greater understanding of our community and issues facing the Jewish community

## 2. Social Cohesion

To help protect and improve community harmony and cross-communal understanding, the JCCV:

- Participated in the Victorian Commemoration of the Port Arthur Massacre at St Peters Eastern Hill
- Is an active participant in the **Victorian Multi-faith Advisory Group (MAG)** which aims to address and advise the State Government on a diverse range of issues of concern to the Jewish community, including racism and religious intolerance, countering violent extremism, social issues in diverse communities such as family violence and community security

## Executive Director's Report

- Actively participates in the **Victoria Police Multicultural Portfolio Reference Group (PRG)** which helps improve cultural sensitivity in Victoria Police and adds an element of multicultural understanding to the Police decision making process.
- Worksthrughthe**VictoriaPoliceInterfaithCouncil**with a variety of faith groups to add an understanding of faith issues to the Police decision making process and providing advice regarding fostering social cohesion. Both this group and Multicultural PRG provide advice and input to various Police projects and their senior level decision making processes in areas such as security, community policy, religious sensitivity and preventing radicalisation of youth.
- Is a founding member and ongoing participant throughHilaryMcMahonintheVictoriaPolice**Community Encounters** program which seeks to create empathy and understanding amongst police and PSO recruits for people of diverse cultures and backgrounds
- Is actively involved in the **Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria (ECCV)** and the **Faith Communities Council of Victoria (FCCV)** which help address issues such as racism, religious discrimination, community education, and religious education in schools.
- Helps drive bridge-building initiatives through the **Jewish Christian Muslim Association (JCMA)** including:
  - o JCMA Friendship Walk which attracted over 200 Jews, Muslims and Christians visiting St Peters Eastern Hill, the East Melbourne Hebrew Congregation and the Albanian Mosque in support of peace and understanding, as well as a separate Friendship Walk in Ballarat visiting Ballarat Synagogue for the first time,
  - o JCMA understanding of religion in schools project,
  - o Joint Journey to Jerusalem, where a group of Jews, Muslims and Christians visited Jerusalem together to discuss issues of faith, community and politics, and the
  - o Annual JCMA Interfaith Conference.
- Activelyparticipatesonthe**SpiritualHealthVictoria (SHV)** Council which consists of representative of the major faith communities
- Arranged and hosted events with Christians (inaugural Victorian Council of Churches Reception and annual Catholic Dinner), Melbourne's diverse African communities (inaugural African dinner), and Muslims (inaugural Iftar dinner) to build friendships and create coalitions against religious intolerance and racism.
- Regularly meets with representatives of a wide variety of communities and community representatives, including



the Victorian Council of Churches, Africans, Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus, Sikhs and many others to discuss issues of mutual concern and projects of mutual benefit.

- Sponsored the Interfaith Centre of Melbourne interfaith dinner in the City Square which involved all major faith groups in Victoria.



## 3. Health & Welfare

The JCCV had a particularly strong year in the area community health and welfare, including:

- Inaugural **Mental Health Forum** featuring the Minister for Mental Health, the CEO of SANE Australia, a Psychiatrist, a Psychologist, a mental health advocate and Jewish Care Victoria
- Continuation of the **Youth Alcohol Project (YAP)** with student and parent education at the Jewish day schools with expert presenters from organisations including Headspace, Alfred Health, Hatzolah, Victoria Police and the Australian Jewish Psychologists.
- JCCV **Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention Forum** including presentations by the CEO of Odyssey House, a Psychologist and an emergency physician
- Active participation in development of alcohol abuse prevention policy through the **Alcohol Policy Coalition**
- Hatzolah, with the support of Gandel Philanthropy, presented the JCCV with an additional life-saving mobile **'Start-the-Heart'** defibrillator device to be available to loan for community events and youth group camps at venues where no such device is available.
- A JCCV **Jewish community spiritual care immersion day** was organised where spiritual care coordinators from hospitals across the state and from various faiths spent a day visiting Jewish Melbourne to better understand our community and our community's special needs, including Temple Beth Israel and the Jewish Holocaust Centre, with a diverse ranges of speakers including Orthodox, Progressive and secular Jewish spokespeople, Holocaust Survivor guides and Rabbonim. This is the second time that the day forms part of a formal subject at the University of Divinity.
- The JCCV has developed an **accreditation process** for Jewish community appointed spiritual carers which will be fully implemented in 2017, including extensive accreditation guidelines and a code of conduct. It is planned to enter into Memoranda of Understanding with the Rabbinical Council of Victoria, Chabad Youth, Temple Beth Israel and Kehilat Nitzan to act as authorized accrediting organisations for Jewish partoral carers. A train the trainer program for Rabbonim will be delivered





## Executive Director's Report

- Organised a workshop on being an active bystander to prevent family violence, and worked with the Taskforce Against Family Violence on joint family violence related events with speakers Dr Elana Sztokman and Judge Eugene Hyman, and interfaith family violence events and initiatives, such as with the Victorian Council of Churches and Multifaith Advisory Group.
- Child Protection activities continued, including:
  - Delivery of another round of child protection policy and procedure training for community organisations and youth groups
- Promotion of the Victorian Betrayal of Trust Child Safe Standards and reporting requirements, Child Protection policy guidelines and fact sheets
- Promotion of information sessions on the Child Safe standards
- Invited the Commissioner for Children and Young People to present at the JCCV AGM

### 4. Social Inclusion

To support our social inclusion priority, aiming to ensure the full inclusion and participation in the community of Jews with disabilities and Jews of diverse sexual orientation and gender identity (LGBTI Jews), the JCCV:

- Took over administrative responsibility for the Social Inclusion Leadership Committee (SILC) from Jewish Care Victoria,
- Led a coalition of dozens of faith communities and faith leaders to issue a strong interfaith statement against homophobia, biphobia and transphobia in the shadow of the Orlando massacre
- Launched the JCCV's LGBTI Services booklet at a JCCV Plenum with the Minister for Multicultural Affairs



- Launched the JCCV LGBTI Youth Social Inclusion video which was developed by the JCCV young LGBTI group JADE – Jews All Diverse and Equal
- The JCCV Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex (GLBTI) Working Group continues, and has helped the JCCV deliver its initiatives to address the mental health issues arising from homophobia and community alienation in the Jewish LGBTI community.

### 5. Holocaust Remembrance

To ensure ongoing remembrance of the Holocaust and support for Survivors:

- JCCV organised and hosted the **Yom Hashoah Commemoration** at Robert Blackwood Hall, Monash University with over 1000 people attending
- JCCV worked with the Jewish Holocaust Centre on the **UN Holocaust Memorial Day** commemoration at Glen Eira Town Hall

- Working with various Russian speaking Jewish community organisations, including the Kangarusskis, the Forum of Russian Speaking Jewry and LIDER Russian Sunday School, JCCV arranged the **75th Anniversary Commemoration of Babi Yar** at the Jewish Holocaust Centre
- We organised various groups from outside the community to tour the Jewish Holocaust Centre, including politicians, city councillors, spiritual carers, and interfaith community leaders including the President of the Islamic Council of Victoria.
- Proof of life certification and other documentation support and advice for Holocaust Survivors.



### 6. Community Development

The JCCV is determined to ensure an active and vibrant Victorian Jewish community, developing communication and cooperation to enhance synergies across the community including:

- The **JCCV Community Recognition Awards** to recognise exemplary contribution and achievement in the community, especially for volunteers. The Awards includes the prestigious General Sir John Monash Award and the **JCCV Young Leader Award** to help recognise and promote leadership in young members of our community
- JCCV supported and/or participated in many key community events including for Yom Hazikaron (sponsor and on the organising committee), Yom Haatzmaut celebrations, the Yom Haatzmaut Family Day and the 'In One Voice' Festival.

- Publishing the annual **JCCV Community Diary and Directory**

- Organising the annual Community Appeal Calendar

- Regular distribution of the JCCV **WhatsNue**-newsletter to over 7,500 people

- Worked with various community organisations on a number of important Israel-related events, including

- An Israeli disability delegation breakfast and evening reception with Jewish Care Victoria

- An event featuring key Israeli commentators with AIJAC and UIA

- Memorial service for President Shimon Peres with Zionism Victoria

- Six **JCCV Plenums** were held during the year in addition to the JCCV AGM, where delegates from our affiliates and interested community members came



## Executive Director's Report

- together to focus on issues of community interest and concern, including the following speakers:
  - Hon Robin Scott, Minister for Multicultural Affairs & Minister for Finance
  - Andrew Holden, Editor-in-Chief of The Age
  - Kate Jenkins, Commissioner of the Victorian Equal Opportunity & Human Rights Commission
  - Helen Kapalos, Chair of the Victorian Multicultural Commission
  - Dr Colin Rubinstein, Executive Director of AIJAC
  - Rabbi James Kennard, Principal of Mount Scopus Memorial College
  - Debbie Wiener, President of the Jewish Taskforce Against Family Violence
  - Pauline Rockman OAM, Co-President of the Jewish Holocaust Centre on the IHRA
  - Rebecca McKenzie, CEO of the City of Glen Eira

- Jewish Holocaust Centre (JHC) working together on Holocaust commemoration and education
- Victorian Multicultural Commission (VMC) supporting social cohesion and cooperation across faiths and cultures
- Victoria Police working together for a safer and more harmonious community
- Zionism Victoria (ZV) working in support of a more balanced and factual understanding of Israel

### David Marlow

As part of the JCCV's role in development of our youth and ensuring community safety, the JCCV administers the following programs on behalf of the community:

- Marion and Kurt Lippmann Scholarship
- Trudi Weiss Scholarship
- Council for Jewish Education in Schools
- Council for Jewish Community Security

### In conclusion

The JCCV professional team has performed at an outstanding level again this year, and I am delighted that Hilary McMahon, Anat Aloni and Julie Batty continue to be professional and passionate about delivering for the community.

In March, Anat Aloni successfully took over project management of the JCCV Youth Alcohol Project from Debbie Zauder who departed in March. I would like to thank Debbie for her years dedicated to developing and organising the Youth Alcohol Project.

The JCCV has worked with many wonderful partners on key initiatives and in committees and reference groups, who are listed elsewhere in this annual report, but I would like to especially thank the following organisations who are consistently excellent and supportive partners, a delight to work with and outstanding contributors to the community:

- Our national body, the Executive Council of Australian Jewry (ECAJ) on national and international issues
- Australia/Israel & Jewish Affairs Council (AIJAC) on political and Israel related issues
- Jewish Care Victoria on a range of social justice, welfare and social inclusion issues



## MULTICULTURAL & INTERFAITH PORTFOLIO REPORT 2016

It has been my pleasure and honour to continue on the JCCV Executive holding the Multicultural and Interfaith portfolio. Highlights this year have included the inaugural JCCV and ICV (Islamic Council of Victoria) Iftar dinner and the inaugural JCCV and African Communities dinner. I attended a Morning Tea Roundtable at Government House with Governor Linda Dessau, for an interfaith discussion with a small group of Jewish, Christian and Moslem women.

As the JCCV Liaison to the FCCV (Faith Communities Council of Victoria) I have regularly attended and participated in the Management Committee meetings. I meet leaders from a variety of faiths across Victoria, working together with them to promote positive relations between different faith communities. Together with JCCV, a seminar was organised centred around the findings of the Victorian Family Violence Royal Commission and its implications for faith communities. This was a most important (and sombre) forum that was well-attended by representatives from a wide variety of faith communities in Victoria. The FCCV's annual Interfaith Networks Conference is scheduled to take place towards the end of the year, hosted by the Darebin Interfaith Network.

In my position as JCCV Liaison to the JCMA (Jewish Christian Moslem Association of Australia) I have continued to regularly attend and participate in the Executive meetings, as well as serve on the Schools Program Committee. The JCMA's Women's Committee continues to be very active, organising a wide array of events, including its highly successful inaugural Interfaith Film Festival.

Under the leadership of Rabbi Ralph Genende, the President of JCMA, a small group of Jews, Christians and Moslems undertook the Joint Journey to Jerusalem. The participants

visited sites held holy by all three faiths, studied each other's texts, met people of each other's faiths and discussed many and varied topics. The impact that this intense and highly-rewarding journey has had on the participants is profound, and it hoped that the next Joint Journey to Jerusalem in 2018, will be just as gratifying.

JCMA held a two-day residential Winter Conference, the first one in a number of years. It was entitled 'Let's Talk: The Importance of Interfaith Dialogue'. Presentations, panel discussions, small group sessions, observations and explanations of each other's prayers, textual study and a Speaker's Corner, all contributed to a thought-provoking and meaningful experience. We look forward to another conference next year.

I would like to thank David Marlow, our Executive Director, for all his involvements in interfaith organisations and activities. I'd also like to thank Jennifer Huppert and all Executive members for their collegiality and support.

### Frances Prince

Multicultural & Interfaith Portfolio Representative



## COMMUNITY RESEARCH AND WELFARE REPORT

The programs within this portfolio continued to be a success, resulting in positive impact and conclusive outcomes benefiting the entire Jewish community in Melbourne.

### YOUTH ALCOHOL PROGRAM

Debbie Zauder finished her role as a project officer for the Youth and Alcohol Project in March 2016. Debbie's dedication and professionalism were a key to the programs' success and we would like to thank her, and wish her all the very best in her future endeavors.

We wish to extend a special thanks to all the members of the Youth and Alcohol Project committee for their ongoing support and their professional advice towards developing the program. We commend them for their involvement with the community and professional manner in which they run the project.

Anat Aloni have taken over and is running the project alongside her other key projects.

This year's program enabled the Jewish schools in Victoria to once again participate in educational sessions at the year 6 to 7 levels. Both parents and students participated in information sessions presented by a group of expert speakers who provided a wide perspective of the subject. A sincere thanks to all the speakers for their ongoing commitment and devotion to our cause.



We have also begun working on creating an official education program that will combine events, activities and resources, which will encourage changes to the drinking culture in our community.

The project's Facebook page "Youth Alcohol Project YAP JCCV" has been enjoying a growing exposure while empowering parents, students, academics, workers from other alcohol programs and others with a general interest in the youth and alcohol issue.

A Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention Forum was held in April this year as well, in order to seek direction on the most effective measures to reduce drug and alcohol abuse in the Jewish community, especially amongst young people. Participants in the Forum included representatives from JCCV affiliates, expert panel of speakers from Odyssey House, Psychologists, Family Therapists and Emergency Physicians. Other attendees included the Australian Drug Foundation, Glen Eira Council, social workers and concerned parents.

### CHILD PROTECTION

This year, the community continued to demonstrate serious, solemn and ongoing commitment to safeguarding children and young people within organisations and we commend the participants and their leadership.

The JCCV has worked with The Commission for Children and Young People to help disseminate the requirements to comply with the new Child Safe standards and reporting framework including the commissioner Liana Buchanan

Commissioner for Children and Young People in Victoria speaking at the JCCV AGM.

A significant achievement was the Submission to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse: Responding to complaints of child sexual abuse in institutions which was submitted by the Jewish Community Council of Victoria (JCCV) in April 2016.

JCCV's plan is to continue promoting training for Jewish community organisations in the new Child Protection standards and reporting requirements legislated in Victoria, and encourage Jewish community organisations to seek accreditation with the Australian Childhood Foundation to help ensure that policies and procedures, and a culture of child protection are embedded into our community organisations.

### PASTORAL CARE

The Government, through Spiritual Health Victoria, is encouraging faith communities in Victoria to implement an accreditation process for faith community appointed Spiritual Care Providers (Pastoral Carers), both volunteer and professional. The aim is to have volunteer and professional accredited by their faith community with a formalised process, which is consistent with the Spiritual Health Victoria (SHV) Accreditation Guidelines. This year the JCCV has been developing a process of accreditation for Jewish Spiritual Care Providers which is consistent with the SHV Guidelines. The draft process has been reviewed by the JCCV Spiritual Care Reference Group and SHV.

In the future, public hospitals and possibly private hospitals as well will require that Spiritual Care Providers appointed by faith communities such as Synagogues, Jewish community organisations, be accredited, or they will not be allowed access to patient lists or hospital wards. Regardless, Rabbis or other visitors invited by patients or family members will still be allowed to visit the patient they are invited to see.

The JCCV has obtained an agreement from a handful of key organisations in the community to authorise carers accrediting bodies, take operational control of accrediting their Spiritual Care Providers, including volunteers, Rabbonim and others. The process includes training, reference checks and agreeing to a new code of conduct. To implement the process, the following organisations became authorised accrediting organisations: Temple Beth Israel (for the Progressive movement ref. Michel Laloum), Chabad Youth, Kehilat Nitzan (for the Conservative/Masorti movement) and Rabbinical Council of Victoria for the Orthodox Community.

In the second part of the year, the JCCV hosted the annual JCCV Spiritual Health Care Jewish Immersion Day which was aimed at creating better understanding of the Jewish community and the needs of Jewish patients for spiritual care professionals in hospitals around Victoria.

The program was part of a spiritual care subject offered by Stirling College and the University of Divinity. Fifteen spiritual carers from various religious faiths and hospitals participated, and they heard from a wide variety of speakers and had a rich immersion into Jewish history, tradition and explanation of Jewish pastoral needs.



## Community Research and Welfare Report

### MENTAL HEALTH

This year the JCCV commenced a Community Mental Health Project with the aim of increasing the awareness of mental health issues and prompting discussion, provisionally with a focus on suicide prevention, mental health awareness and reducing the stigma in the Jewish community as well as inter-generational mental health issues.

To bring expertise into the planning process, JCCV formed a Mental Health Advisory Group to help drive the project.

In September, the JCCV hosted a Mental Health Forum aiming to help open the discussion on mental health issues across the community. A well-attended event took place in the Beth Weizmann Community Centre.

Among the guest speakers and panelist were the Minister for Mental Health and Equality, Hon Martin Foley, who outlined the Victorian Government's mental health policy and initiatives to reduce the rate of suicide in Victoria. CEO SANE Australia, Jewish Care and a group of professional experts specializing in the field have addressed the growing need to wipe away the stigma and break away the barriers for those who seek help especially in the young generation. It is JCCV's plan to

continue exploring and developing initiatives which focus on suicide prevention, encouraging people to seek help and to reduce the weight it bears upon families and community.

In conclusion, I am grateful and humbled to be working with people who are so dedicated to these projects, and work effortlessly promoting them to the Jewish community. Special thanks to David Marlow, JCCV Executive Director for his deep understanding and involvement in the projects, JCCV project officer Anat Aloni, whose passion and drive are contagious. I want to thank JCCV President Jennifer Huppert, my fellow Executive Members, and the highly professional JCCV staff, whom I look forward to working with in 2017.

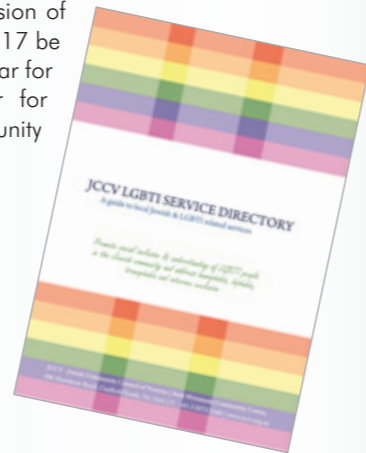
**Rimma Sverdlin OAM**



### SOCIAL INCLUSION

The JCCV, in 2016 has taken a significant role in advocating for the rights of those with a Disability, LGBTI inclusion in the wake of Orlando and fighting for inclusion of individuals in society, as well as families. It is important to note that the JCCV has also led advocacy amongst multifait groups including releasing a statement after the Orlando Gay Hate Crime earlier this year. In addition to continuing this great work, in 2017 I am looking forward to extending our impact with respect to financial empowerment of disadvantaged groups, fighting for women's rights and continuing the fight for marriage equality in Australia. I am also looking forward to an exciting year in 2017, leading the Social Inclusion Leadership Committee (SILC) with The Hon. David Southwick and working with our community to provide better advocacy and empowerment for those with a disability and continuing to fight for equality and inclusion of marginalised groups. May 2017 be a more equal and inclusive year for all. Doron Abramovici Director for Social Inclusion and Community Engagement

**Doron Abramovici**



## JEMP Annual Report 2016



JEMP Inc (Vic) is a Support Agency providing preparedness, planning, response and recovery for Victoria's Jewish Community. As such, JEMP is like an insurance providing comfort to our community in knowing we have the relevant cover but hoping that we do not need to call on that cover.

JEMP's Technical Committee [TC] is JEMP's operational arm charged with managing emergencies in our community when they occur. JEMP's TC meets formally every month with several informal meetings and communications during each month.

The TC comprises respected community members who, between them, have decades of emergency service and business continuity experience. Members of JEMP's Technical Committee are Danny Elbaum [Hatzolah], Rabbi Ronnie Figdor, Frank Gaensler, Jennifer Huppert [JCCV and JEMP President], Kathy Kaplan OAM, Ronit Lewis [Hatzolah], Justin Lipson [CSG], Andrew Litwinow, David Michelson (Commander), Saul Midler and Ricky Pearl [CSG]. Upon Justin's departure from CSG, Jesse Coppel from CSG joined the TC.

Victoria's Jewish community is indebted to the people who make up JEMP. I would like to personally thank each of these individuals, many of whom act in a volunteer capacity, for their continued passion for the well-being of our community through the generous gift of their time, energy and expertise. Special thanks needs to be extended especially to David Michelson, Rabbi Ronnie Figdor and Andrew Litwinow whose voluntary commitment and contribution has been particularly exemplary this year.

On behalf of JEMP, I sincerely thank Justin Lipson for his years of active support, participation and leadership in JEMP's activities and wish him every success for the future. While Saul Midler took Leave of Absence, I am aware that he maintained an active interest and remained completely up-to-date on all of JEMP's activities this year.

JEMP's Committee met twice to review its role and to offer direction for JEMP.

JEMP's Technical Committee sees Community Recovery and Rehabilitation as the next critical steps following a major emergency with the realisation that such recovery and rehabilitation strategies and processes need to be initiated immediately JEMP initiates a response to an emergency. To this end, it was the TC's intent to make this part of JEMP's 2016 focus but, at the direction of the Committee, this was put on hold as the President and Committee explored whether this might be better achieved outside the parameters of JEMP.

With the support of JEMP's Committee, a Young TC group is being formed to offer new insights and energy, planning assistance and succession planning for the TC. A number of Jewish police, paramedics, fire personnel and others have expressed interest in becoming involved.

JEMP is well known and respected outside of the Jewish Community. In order to bring better balance to this, JEMP published a new trifold brochure, attended the community's In One Voice festival and presented at a Zionism Victoria Executive. A suitable timeslot for JEMP to present at a JCCV Plenum was not able to be found.

The ongoing challenge for JEMP's TC is to maintain its level of readiness in the hope that full activation will not

be required. The TC achieves this by undertaking regular tabletop exercises simulating different emergency scenarios to test JEMP's readiness, and Plan, at any given moment.

JEMP representatives attend the quarterly meetings of the Emergency Management Meetings of the Cities of Bayside, Glen Eira, Stonnington and Port Phillip. David Michelson also sits on the Southern Metropolitan Region Emergency Response Committee. The Cities of Glen Eira and Boroondara held a major training exercises this year to which JEMP was invited.

JEMP accepted invitations to meet with and address the Red Cross, the Inspector General's Office of Emergency Management and the SES and participated in an exercise at Mt Scopus Memorial College.

To further assist Jewish Youth Groups and Schools, JEMP's website provides a raft of resources and guides and offers them the opportunity to work with them to review and/or revise their emergency plans.

As in previous years, JEMP runs twice yearly pre-camp briefings for Schlichim, Madrachim and other camp leaders. Jewish Scout Groups and Camp Sababa are also invited to these briefings.

As in previous years, JEMP keeps a record of when and where Jewish Youth, Scout and Camp Sababa Groups go on camp [subject to them passing on that information as requested] so that, in the event of an emergency, JEMP is ready to assist if required. While that invitation is also open to Melbourne's Jewish Day Schools, none, to date, have chosen to share this information with JEMP.

In order to provide an additional level of support should a bushfire impact a Jewish camp, JEMP makes a point of notifying the CFA of the location and timings of those Jewish camps of which it is advised, together with the contact details of relevant leaders.

JEMP holds quarterly meetings with Melbourne's Emergency Service Organisations [ESOs]. This year JEMP again made a concerted effort to expose those organisations – police, ambulance, fire brigade, city councils, Red Cross, Department of Human Services and others – to different organisations from our community. The feedback from these meetings has been overwhelmingly positive with the organisations astounded by the breadth and depth of the services and organisation our community provides its members. The Red Cross and City of Boroondara, in particular, are major fans of JEMP speaking highly of it at different City Council MEMP meetings and have even published JEMP's new brochure on their intranets.

ESO meetings this year were held at the Leo Baeck Progressive Synagogue, Stonnington City Council and Hatzolah. The December meeting will be held at the SES. Speakers came from those organisations, from Access Inc, All Abilities Macabbi, the Australian Jewish News, J-Air and Hatzolah.

As a result of the education provided at these ESO meetings, there have been a number of occasions when the Police, City Councils and the Red Cross contacted JEMP seeking assistance with some situations, albeit not major emergencies.

**Jennifer Huppert, JEMP President**



## JCCV Policy Platform

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## JCCV Policy Platform

### 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.

## JCCV Policy Platform

- 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.

## JCCV Policy Platform

### 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.

## JCCV Policy Platform

### 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.

## JCCV Policy Platform

- 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.



## JCCV Policy Platform

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 SUPPORTS those affiliates whose members possess professional qualifications (recognised under the Health Professions 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.

3.23.4 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.

## JCCV Policy Platform

### 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.

## JCCV Policy Platform

### 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.

## JCCV Policy Platform

### 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

## Appreciation

The Jewish Community Council of Victoria wishes to express its sincere appreciation to the following sponsors and supporters:

Tisher Liner FC Law, the Council's Honorary Solicitors, and the Auditors for the JCCV, Jack Gaddie & Associates for their assistance during 2016.

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# JCCV COMMUNITY AWARDS 2016

**WEDNESDAY  
16 NOVEMBER  
2016**  
IN THE PRESENCE OF  
**HON MARTIN PAKULA MP**  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

THE GENERAL  
SIR JOHN MONASH AWARD  
**SUSIE IVANY**

THE JCCV YOUNG  
LEADERSHIP AWARD  
**JEMIMA HOFFMAN**

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