

Jewish Community Council of Victoria

80 YEARS AS THE VOICE OF VICTORIAN JEWRY

JCCCV 2017 ANNUAL REPORT



JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL
OF VICTORIA INC

מועצת הקהילה היהודית בויקטוריה
ידישער קהילה-ראט פון וויקטאריע

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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, 20 NOVEMBER 2017 AT 8.00 PM

At Gandel Philanthropy, Chadstone Office Tower,
Level 9, 1341 Dandenong Road, Chadstone

(Map & Directions attached)

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Adoption of Minutes of the Annual General Meeting – 21 November 2016
3. JCCV Year in Review
4. Address by Mr Edward Santow, Australian Human Rights Commissioner “Hot Issues in Human Rights – 2017”
5. Presentation of the 2017 Sir General John Monash Award
6. Presentation of the JCCV Young Leader Award
7. Presentation of Marion and Kurt Lippmann Scholarship
8. Report of the President, Jennifer Huppert and presentation of the Annual Report
9. Report of the Treasurer, Ian Jones
10. Adoption of Reports
11. Election of Office Bearers to JCCV Executive
12. Election of Ordinary Members of the JCCV Executive
13. Appointment of Honorary Solicitors
14. Appointment of Auditors
15. General Business

ABOUT THE JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF VICTORIA

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

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

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

- Facilitation of harmony and positive relationships across the Victorian Jewish community and between our community and the broader Victorian community
- Greater understanding of and respect for the Jewish way of life
- A thriving local Jewish community
- A safer local Jewish community
- Zero community tolerance of racism and religious intolerance in general and antisemitism in particular
- Wider knowledge and appreciation of the Shoah (Holocaust) and its lessons
- A positive perception of Jews in Victorian society
- Continuing and enhancing the Victorian Jewish community's contribution to social justice and social inclusion for all community members
- A better society by promoting understanding and cooperation between all faith
- And in partnership with Zionism Victoria:

A more sophisticated public understanding of Israel's efforts to achieve peace and security

Effective counteraction of misinformation on Israel, the Middle East and the Arab/Israeli conflict

A greater understanding of Israel in relation to contemporary Jewish identity

The JCCV's priorities are:

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

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

HONORARY OFFICERS

President	Jennifer Huppert
Vice President	Anton Hermann
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 2017

OFFICE BEARERS

President	Jennifer Huppert
Vice President	Anton Hermann
Honorary Treasurer	Ian Jones

PORTFOLIOS

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

MEMBER OF EXECUTIVE – EX OFFICIO

Zionism Victoria	Sharene Hambur
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PROFESSIONAL STAFF

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

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 2017

BOARD OF PATRONS

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

COUNCILLORS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIAN JEWRY

Daniel Aghion	Anton Hermann
Eugene Berkovic OBM	Jennifer Huppert
Anton Block	Atida Lipshatz
Braham Goldberg	Dr Andre Oboler
Sharene Hambur	Dean Sherr

PLENUM MEETING DATES FOR 2018

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



The Hon Daniel Andrews MP

Premier of Victoria

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

D17/286686

MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER

I send my best wishes to the Jewish Community Council of Victoria ahead of your Annual General Meeting.

For 80 years, you have supported and advocated on behalf of Jewish Victorians, and led the way in promoting understanding and dialogue between all faiths.

This leadership has strengthened the bonds that unite our proudly multicultural and multi-faith state, and reflects the Council's commitment to building a fairer, more just Victoria.

On behalf of the Victorian Government, I wish everyone at the Jewish Community Council of Victoria, and all of Victoria's Jewish community, a successful year ahead.

The Hon Daniel Andrews MP
Premier



THE HON. MATTHEW GUY MP

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

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

MESSAGE FROM THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

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 2017.

Our position as the leading state for multicultural affairs has been supported by our energetic multicultural sector, including the Jewish Community Council of Victoria (JCCV) and the entire Jewish community of Victoria, who continue to champion the many benefits of our diversity, and promote harmony and cohesion across Victorian communities.

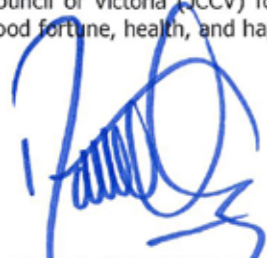
Through our diverse pool of talented communities here in Victoria – people who understand the language, the culture and the way people do business abroad – we can continue to foster trade and investment opportunities.

The Liberal Nationals Coalition has always understood the importance and valued the contribution of Victoria's Jewish community to our State. Its tireless efforts have enhanced Victoria's vibrant and diverse landscape and our trade relations with Israel and the global market.

In July, I was honoured to visit Israel and to see first-hand the great achievements and successes which have made Israel such a powerful economy, despite the continuous challenges faced by its people. During this visit I was also able to discuss how Israel and Victoria can further continue to build on our strong friendship.

As the peak body of the largest Jewish community in Australia, the JCCV demonstrates outstanding leadership, playing a pivotal role in strengthening our relationship and friendship with Israel.

On behalf of the Liberal Nationals Coalition I commend the Jewish Community Council of Victoria (JCCV) for its exceptional work and extend my best wishes for good fortune, health, and happiness to the entire Jewish community.



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

matthewguy.com.au [@matthewguymp](https://twitter.com/matthewguymp) [/matthewguymp](https://facebook.com/matthewguymp)



Executive Council of Australian Jewry Inc.

הוועד הכולל של יהודי אוסטרליה

The Representative Organisation of Australian Jewry

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 Sydney NSW 2000

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PRESIDENT
 Anton Block

DEPUTY PRESIDENT
 Jillian Segal AM

HON. TREASURER
 Eugene Berkovic

HON. SECRETARY
 David Knoll AM

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
 Peter Wertheim AM

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

IMM. PAST PRESIDENT
 Robert M Goot AM, SC

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

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

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



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

18 September 2017

Dear Jennifer

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

I thank you and the entire JCCV team in particular for your invaluable support to the ECAJ in its successful campaign to defend, once again, the legal protections our community enjoys against racial hate speech under the *Racial Discrimination Act*. This occurred in the face of a concerted campaign by sections of the government and media to water down those protections.

I thank you also for the courtesy and co-operation extended to the ECAJ at all times by the JCCV in helping us organise a wonderful welcome to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Sara Netanyahu during their visit to Australia, the first ever by an incumbent Israeli Prime Minister.

As ever, this year has seen a number of outstanding JCCV events, Shoah commemorations, Yom Ha'atzmaut and other Israeli celebrations, and inter-faith and inter-communal events all of which require considerable organisational effort and have an immensely positive impact for the Jewish and wider communities. The continuing work of the JCCV's Child Support Reference group has been outstanding.

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

Yours sincerely



Anton Block
 President

Beth Weitzmann 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 2017

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.

The last year has seen the JCCV, under the presidency of Jennifer Huppert, continue to represent the Victorian Jewish community both within our own community and also within the wider Victorian community. Its work in reaching out to other ethnic and religious groups and, in particular, the work of David Marlow, its Executive Director, in spearheading the co-ordination of other ethnic and religious groups in the Section 18C debate has been exemplary. The JCCV has also undertaken extremely valuable work within our own community on a number of social issues where it has played a pivotal role in ensuring that matters such as mental health, youth alcohol use and the position of LGBTIQ community have been addressed in a sensitive and timely manner.

The close working relationship between Zionism Victoria and the Council has continued and we have worked together on many activities and projects including the co-hosting of the annual Yom Ha'atzmaut Cocktail Reception for parliamentarians and other civic leaders and a fitting and moving memorial service for Yitzhak Rabin z"l.

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.

I have particularly appreciated the close working relationship that I have enjoyed with Jennifer over the past year. We speak regularly and I have valued her wisdom and insights as we have discussed issues of mutual concern to the Victorian Jewish community.

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

INTRODUCTION

2017 has in the most part been a positive year of the Victorian Jewish Community and the JCCV.

The JCCV has successfully advocated for the Jewish Community in Victoria, building on existing strong relationships with State and Local Government, Government Instrumentalities, NGO's, the media and the wider Victorian community, including its many ethnic and faith based communities. The JCCV is seen by the Government as role model for many of these groups.

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

While generally Victoria continues to provide a safe and welcoming environment for the Jewish Community, at the start of the year the Community was impacted by the tragic event which occurred in Bourke Street on Friday 20 January, when 6 people were killed, including Thalia Hakin (of blessed memory) a 10 year old student at Beth Rivkeh Ladies College.

REPRESENTATION – Political, Police, Interfaith and Multicultural

POLITICAL

The strong bipartisan support for the Jewish community and Israel from all sides of the politics in Victoria continues to be a feature of Victorian political life, and this year members of parliament from both the Government and Opposition participated in a number of JCCV events, as well as delegations to Israel.

During the year the JCCV has held meetings with a number of Ministers, Shadow Ministers and other members of Parliament to discuss topics of concern to the Jewish community, including anti-semitism, racism, social cohesion and security. Where possible, we work with other communal organisations in making representations to government.

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

We are delighted that a number of our affiliates have received significant financial support from the Victorian Government for capital projects this year, including The Jewish Holocaust Centre, Caulfield Hebrew Congregation, St Kilda Hebrew Congregation and Temple Beth Israel.

Earlier in the year there was a focus on the campaign around the proposed changes to the Racial Discrimination Act 1975. The JCCV made a submission to the inquiry held by the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights, and was also instrumental in bringing together The Coalition to Advance Multiculturalism, a broad coalition of cultural and faith group, which lobbied to retain section 18C and 18D of the Act in their current form. On 15 March the JCCV and Kehilat Beit Aharon held a successful forum on this subject with Mark Dreyfus QC MP, Tim Wilson MP, Rabbi James Kennard and Georgina Downer, moderated by ECAJ President Anton Block. The evening, attended by approximately 160 people, was reported on the front page of The Australian newspaper.



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 political staffers and policy makers. This included visits to Jewish Care, St Kilda Hebrew Congregation, the Jewish Museum of Australia and the Jewish Holocaust Centre (JHC). Following on from this event, the JCCV has held two Immersion Days for staff of Glen Eira City Council, which included speakers from a variety of Jewish communal organisations, as well as visits to the JHC and Caulfield Hebrew Congregation.



The JCCV is grateful for the support of the co-chairs of the Victorian Parliamentary Friends of Israel Group, Marsha Thomson MP and David Southwick MP, both of whom attend many of our events, and provide support for the community and Israel in the Parliament.

POLICE

JCCV is a member of both the Victoria Police Multicultural Portfolio Reference Group and the Victoria Police Interfaith Council, where we are well represented by Executive Director David Marlow.



This year the JCCV Business Manager, Hilary McMahon was awarded the Victoria Police Command Commendation, the highest award a Command can bestow on an individual, for her outstanding contribution to Victoria Police, in particular the

Community Encounters program for police and PSO recruits.

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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

MULTICULTURAL AND INTERFAITH

Victoria has a strong multicultural society, with support from all major political parties. The JCCV plays an important role in maintaining this through its work with interfaith and multicultural groups, in both the Government and NGO sector, and with individual faith and ethnic groups. The JCCV has also been invited to participate in many events and programs aimed at developing Victorian policies in the area of Multiculturalism, including consultations with the Victorian Multicultural Commissioner, Helen Kapalos, and the Victorian Human Rights and Equal Opportunities Commissioner, Kristen Hilton.

The role of the JCCV has been recognised by the Victorian Government which has provided significant funding for our multicultural and interfaith activities for the 2017/2018 year.

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.

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 Health Victoria. Executive Director David Marlow has also worked with the Sir Zelman Cowen Centre at Victoria University in developing a Faith based Governance and Dispute Resolution Conference which will be held on 5 and 6 December 2017.

Highlights of the multicultural and interfaith calendar in 2017 include the Jewish Muslim Comedy Debate, which addressed the topic "The North of



the Yarra is better than South of the Yarra", the JCMA Friendship Walks in both Melbourne and Ballarat, and the Annual Jewish Catholic Friendship Dinner. This year also saw the third Jewish African Communities Dinner, at which speakers focussed on Racism in Employment.

A number of members of the executive as well as David Marlow represented the community at Iftar dinners during Ramadan, including the Premier's Iftar Dinner.

As I write this report, the JCCV office is planning reciprocal Immersions Days with the Islamic Council of Victoria (ICV) to be held in November, where leaders from the Jewish and Muslim communities will have the opportunity to spend some time with the other community's leaders and visit their cultural institutions, including religious institutions and

museums.

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

COMMUNITY

One of the JCCV's key aim is to ensure that we build a Jewish community which is both open and accepting, and this informs the JCCV's activities in its community focussed activities.

Inclusion and Social Justice

The JCCV LGBTI Reference Group has continued to raise issues of concern to LGBTI members of our community. As has been the case with the broader community, much of the focus of the Jewish Community has been the same sex marriage postal survey and the impact it is having on LGBTI members of our community.

In September, the JCCV held a LGBTI Mental Health Forum, with participants from SANE Australia, Headspace, Jewish Care Victoria, Keshet Australia, the Rabbinical Council of Victoria and Hatzolah, which focussed on the need for inclusion.

The JCCV was one of the co-hosts of an evening with Rabbi Steven Greenberg entitled "Welcoming Difference: Ethics of Inclusion for an Exclusive People".

At the October Plenum meeting, JCCV affiliates voted in favour of a resolution supporting same sex marriage under civil law.

The JCCV is guided in this area by the members of the JCCV LGBTI Reference Group, JCCV Executive Member Doron Abramovici, Sally Goldner, Andrew Rajcher, Mark Cherny, Julie Leder and Menachem Cylich.



COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELLBEING

The JCCV has continued to highlight issues affecting the health and wellbeing of the Community through events such as the Mental Health Forum referred to above, the JCCV Youth Alcohol Project (YAP), and participation in the Alcohol Policy Coalition.

In 2017 the JCCV has seen a growth in the activities of YAP, which involves sessions for both students and parents regarding alcohol misuse. This year, Bialik College, Mount Scopus Memorial College, Sholem Aleichem College, Beth Rivkah Ladies College, Leibler Yavneh College and The King David School participated in the program. JCCV Project Officer Anat Aloni and JCCV Executive Member Rimma Sverdlin OAM coordinated YAP with the support of the YAP Committee, Ruth Casen, Jacqui Lerner, Brian Samuel, Ann Wollner and Rabbi Moshe Kahn. Anat, Rimma and the committee have been working closely with the participating psychologists to develop a structure to accommodate each

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

of the schools, and has also developed good relations with Victoria Police's Priority Communities Division and Alcohol & Drugs Strategy Unit. YAP also has a Facebook page, which provides information and support to parents.

This year the JCCV offered training courses to enable members of the Jewish community to become accredited spiritual care workers, as well as "train the trainer" programs. With the support of the Spiritual Care Committee, comprising Rimma Sverdlin, Gabbi Sar-Shalom, Rabbi Moshe Kahn, Rabbi Phillip Heilbrunn, Cantor Michal Laloum, Heather Tan, Rabbi Yoseph Nerenberg and Rachel Mihalovich, the JCCV works with both the Rabbinical Council of Victoria and Progressive Judaism Victoria, to ensure that the needs of the Jewish community are met in this important area.

The JCCV Spiritual Care immersion day for pastoral care workers from around the state was held August. Spiritual carers from various religious faiths participated in this program, which forms part of a course offered by Stirling College and the University of Divinity. Participants heard from a wide variety of speakers and had a rich immersion into Jewish history, tradition and an explanation of Jewish pastoral needs.



CHILD PROTECTION

Together with other community leaders in March, I was summoned to give evidence at the Royal Commission, which was inquiring into community attitudes which may have led to some of the circumstances disclosed during the hearings involving Yeshivah College Melbourne and Yeshiva College Bondi, and the community responses in the wake of the Commissions' report.

The JCCV has continued to provide information to community organisations regarding the Victorian Betrayal of Trust Child Safe Standards, which came into effect on 1 January 2017, and to assist affiliates with compliance issues.

Later in November the JCCV and Tzedek are holding an event on "Child Safety for Multifaith & Multicultural Communities". The program to be held at the Victorian Council of Churches, will include updates on child protection policy, current legislation, obligations and preventative programs.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND AFFILIATE SUPPORT

With fifty-one major communal organisations as affiliates, the JCCV represents and unites the mosaic of Jewish associations operating in Victoria.

The JCCV provides a forum where members of the Victoria Jewish community from across the spectrum can exchange ideas and learn from each other's experiences. Publications such as the JCCV Diary and Directory, and the "What's

Nu" newsletter, provide information about Jewish community events and organisations.

The JCCV's professional development program provides opportunities for both staff and volunteers of affiliates to improve their skills and knowledge. This year, in addition to the training sessions referred to above, the JCCV offered programs on "Soft Power: developing and using influence" and "Communication Skills" facilitated by Adam Slonim.

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

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



YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

Early in 2017 JCCV and Zionism Victoria met with representatives from AUJS and Jewish Youth groups to exchange ideas, and discuss ways in which our organisations can support the younger members of our community. As always there was a lively discussion regarding the challenges facing these organisations, including anti-semitism on campus, and how to engage the next generation of Jewish leaders.

At our first Plenum for the year we invited representatives from organisations focusing on young people, including AUJS, SKIF, March of the Living and Stand Up, to update the community on their activities. The contribution made to our community by young people is recognised each year by the JCCV Young Leader Award.



JCCV EVENTS

The JCCV's community events are an important feature of the Jewish community calendar.

One of key objectives of the JCCV is to perpetuate the memory of the victims of the Shoah, and to promote understanding of the Shoah in the community. The annual Yom Hoshuah Commemoration, held at Robert Blackwood Hall, is a focus of the community's commemoration of the Shoah. Randi Grose produces the event, and is ably supported by the organising committee comprising Hilary McMahon, Bram Presser, Nina Bassat AM, Michael Cohen, Ariella Leski, Lena Fiszman and Matan Franco.

The JCCV also participated in the United Nations Holocaust Remembrance Day in conjunction with the JHC, and an event co-hosted by the JHC, Elwood Shule and Melbourne Hebrew Congregation to mark the 75th anniversary of the Wannsee Conference.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The JCCV supported the Zelman Symphony Orchestra's concert on 19 September which featured a moving performance of Shostakovich's 13th Symphony "Babi Yar", and a commemoration marking the anniversary of this tragic event, which included a presentation by the ECAJ's Alex Rychin.

The JCCV co-hosted a number of events with Zionism Victoria, aimed at strengthening ties between the Victorian Jewish Community and Israel. In addition to the Yom Ha'atzmaut Parliamentary Cocktail Reception, the JCCV participated in the Yom Hazikaron Commemoration at Robert Blackwood Hall and co-hosted evenings with Michal Biran MK and Professor Ephraim Inbar. Together with the ECAJ, Zionist Federation of Australia, Zionism Victoria and AJJAC, the JCCV hosted a farewell for His Excellency Shmuel Ben-Shmuel, and will be co-hosting the welcome for his successor, His Excellency Mark Sofer, later in November.

JCCV Plenums, which bring together JCCV affiliates to discuss issues of importance to the community - speakers at Plenums this year included Alan Sunderland, Editorial Director of the ABC, Cheryl Holmes, CEO of Spiritual Health Victoria, Vicki Rundle Deputy CEO of the NDIA and Rebecca Mackenzie, CEO of Glen Eira City Council.



Nina and Bob Bassat generously hosted a function for the JCCV's patrons and major donors, who heard Professor Silviu Itescu speak on the topic of innovation.

COMMUNITY RECOGNITION

Each year the JCCV Executive presents the General Sir John Monash Award for Outstanding Service to the Jewish Community to a person who has demonstrated an exceptional and outstanding commitment to the Victorian Jewish Community over a long period of as well as the JCCV Young Leader Award. This year these awards will be presented at the AGM.

COMMUNICATION AND MEDIA

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

The JCCV uses a variety of media platforms to engage with the community. While the JCCV Directory and Diary continues to be an important resource for both the Jewish and broader community, the JCCV e-bulletin "What's Nu", and the JCCV website, jccv.org.au, in particular the Media Centre and Online Community Calendar, provide up to date information regarding the activities of the JCCV and its affiliates, as well as links to other communal sites, throughout the year.

COMMUNITY SECURITY GROUP

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

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

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

Mark Gandur and the CSG Advisory Board continue 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 John Schurink (representing Hatzolah), Ricky Pearl (representing CSG), Rabbi Ronnie Figdor, Frank Gaensler, Andrew Litwinow and Saul Midler.

JCCV FUNDING

Patrons

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

Estate of Jacob Frenkiel

The Estate of Jacob 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



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

who, through their donations to the JCCV and other Jewish communal organisations, have a lasting impact on the community.

Victorian Government

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

Appeals

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

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 provided 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, Graham Goldsmith and myself.

JCCV also administers the Trude Weiss Foundation for educational support and The Marion and Kurt Lippmann Foundation. The administration is carried out by Hilary McMahon, and JCCV Treasurer Ian Jones is responsible for compliance. My appreciation goes to all those involved in the administration of these funds.

ECAJ

The JCCV has worked closely with the ECAJ in areas which affect the whole of the Australian Jewish community, including the campaign to retain the Racial Discrimination Act, communal security and combatting anti-semitism. ECAJ meetings also provide an important forum for the exchange of ideas with leaders of Jewish communities around Australia.

The JCCV values the ongoing support and advice provided by the ECAJ President Anton Block, who has addressed the Plenum on a number of occasions during the year, and the ECAJ staff, led by Executive Director Peter Wertheim OAM.

The Victorian Jewish Community is appreciative of the strong representation ECAJ provides for Australia within World Jewry. I was fortunate to attend the World Jewish Congress (WJC) Plenary Assembly in New York as part of the Australian delegation. One of the highlights was the

address by the UN Secretary General at the opening dinner, but it was valuable to hear some of the experiences of other communities around the world, as well as the work of the WJC.

EXECUTIVE & STAFF

This year sees the end of the Executive's three year term, and I would like to acknowledge the contribution they have made in that time.

Vice President Anton Hermann, who is also responsible for Governance, Fundraising and Child Protection, has provided valuable support and advice. Ian Jones has ensured that the JCCV has maintained a strong financial position. Francis Prince represents the JCCV on the JCMA and FCCV boards, and has strengthened and expanded our engagement with other faith and cultural groups. Rimma Sverdlin has made an invaluable contribution to the success of YAP, and ensures that social justice issues stay on our agenda. Doron Abramovici has worked energetically in the area of social inclusion and community engagement, and Dr Andre Oboler brings his considerable experience to the area of online engagement and combatting anti-semitism. Jack Lipson is a committed and effective security liaison officer, and co-opted Executive members, Bram Presser and Daniel Nash have made valuable contributions. I also work closely with the President of Zionism Victoria, Sharene Hambur, who is a non-voting member of the Executive, ensuring that there is a strong working relationship between the two organisations. The Executive members come from diverse backgrounds, representing the breadth of the Jewish Community, and bring a variety of skills and perspectives to the JCCV.

The JCCV could not have achieved the successes of the past year without the dedication of its professional staff, 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. David's relationships with Government and NGO's as well as with the JCCV's affiliates and other Jewish community organisations have ensured that the JCCV maintains a strong reputation and profile. David 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 in addition to overseeing the finances of the JCCV, CJCS, CJES and the various Foundations we administer, Hilary is a key member of the Yom Hashoah committee, and ensures that JCCV functions and events run smoothly. I am pleased that contribution has been acknowledged outside as well as within our community,

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Anat Aloni has continued to make a significant contribution to the JCCV's projects, participating in its working groups and committees. Of particular significance in 2017 has been her role in the expansion of YAP. Anat also produced flyers and other marketing material. Administrative Assistant Julie Batty's 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 contribution 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, Lily McArthy, Rebecca Pillai and Diane Rose

LOOKING FORWARD

In last year's report I mentioned that 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, while remaining flexible, with the ability to respond to external challenges, such as anti-semitism and threats to the safety and security of our community.

As can be seen from this report, and the other reports tabled at the AGM, the JCCV has a broad program aimed at meeting these challenges. This would not have been possible without the support of the many people and organisations referred to in this report, in particular the JCCV Executive and staff, and the many members of the Jewish community who have participated in our activities during 2017. I hope that you will continue to support the important work of the JCCV in 2018.

Jennifer Huppert



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

This year has seen a serious focus on human rights issues, with a tremendous amount of work leading to a number of human rights victories for the JCCV and the community, most notably:

- Successful defence of 18C and 18D of the Racial Discrimination Act to protect our freedom against racial and religious discrimination, through active advocacy, organising a submission from a 100-strong coalition of faith and multicultural organisations, a joint 18C community debate on 18C with Beit Aharon and appearing before a Parliamentary Inquiry,
- Successful passing of the National Council of Jewish Women of Australia (NCJWA) motion at JCCV Plenum in support of civil same sex marriage to help allow our LGBTI community members the same rights as the rest of the community, while still defending our religious freedoms in our own Synagogues,
- Successfully defeating the proposed by-law changes at the Melbourne City Council to outlaw rough sleeping in the sleeping in the CBD, directly targeting the homeless, through a multifaith coalition.



It is only fitting that we finish the year with the Australian Human Rights Commissioner, Mr Edward Santow presenting at the Annual General Meeting of the JCCV.

In the interests of defending against racism and antisemitism, enhancing community safety, and obtaining the necessary community resources from the Government, we have worked closely with key organisations in the Jewish community, as well as the Premier, relevant Ministers, the Leader of the Opposition, minor party leaders, leaders of the major faith and community groups, Victoria Police. As always, a key focus is to prevent the spread of violent extremism which would seek to harm our community's way of life.

Our priority areas remain consistent with past years:

- **Social Cohesion**
working towards a more socially cohesive Victoria to ensure community harmony and safety, so that we can live confidently and safely as Jews
- **Social Inclusion:**
working towards social inclusion in the Jewish community, to ensure all Jews feel free and welcome to participate and contribute to the community
- **Youth Engagement:**
ensuring the engagement, health, safety and future of Jewish youth
- **Jewish Continuity:**
ensuring community strength and continuity through key events

- **Israel Advocacy:**
enhancing the discussion of Israel in the community to be more balanced and fact-based

To support our social cohesion priority, the JCCV:

- Organised a **JCCV Politicians and Councillors Jewish community immersion day** with parliamentarians and local government councillors, introducing them to Jewish Melbourne, and the issues faced by our community, including antisemitism, community security, our demographic profile, and the community's concerns regarding Israel, while also reducing stereotypes.
- **New this year**, arising from the parliamentary Jewish immersion days, we have organised two Jewish immersion days for the management team of the **City of Glen Eira**, with visits to a Synagogue, the Beth Weizmann Community Centre and the Jewish Holocaust Centre. The CEO of the City of Glen Eira, Rebecca McKenzie also presented to the JCCV Plenum on the proposed new Cultural Precinct in Elsterwick.
- **Also new this year** were two programs where 1) we took Imams and Muslim leaders to Jewish Melbourne, including the Jewish Holocaust Centre, a Synagogue and a model Shabbat with Rabbis and other Jewish community leaders to better understand us and our community, and 2) we took Rabbis and Jewish leaders to the Islamic Council of Victoria, the Newport Mosque and Islamic Museum to enhance understanding the other way round.
- Organised the **Jewish – Muslim Comedy Debate** at the Melbourne Town Hall with over 300 people attending to help break down stereotypes, build bridges across communities and demonstrate to the general Victorian community that Jews and Muslims can work together in friendship, fun and good faith. The panellists and moderator, Father Bob, were hilarious and very constructive in getting positive messages across. This is the second time we have held this event since the inaugural Comedy Debate in 2013.
- 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.
- 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.



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Works through the **Victoria Police Interfaith Council** 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 (especially surrounding international incidents and local antiterrorism arrests), community policy, religious sensitivity and preventing radicalisation of youth.
- Is a founding member and participant through JCCV Business Manager Hilary McMahon in the Victoria Police **Community Encounters** program which seeks to create empathy and understanding amongst police and PSO recruits for people of diverse cultures and backgrounds. We congratulate Hilary on being awarded a high level Police Award for her work on the program!
- 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 initiatives through the **Jewish Christian Muslim Association (JCMA)** including:
 - o JCMA religion in schools project,
 - o JCMA Friendship Walk which attracts over 200 Jews, Muslims and Christians visiting a church, a Synagogue and a mosque in support of peace and understanding, and
- Actively participates on the **Spiritual Health Victoria (SHV)** Council which consists of representative of the major faith communities, where the focus is on improving Spiritual Care services and culture in hospitals.
- Arranged and hosted community dinners with the **Catholic Archdiocese** and **African communities** to build friendships and create coalitions against religious intolerance and racism. From our African dinners in particular, partnerships have been built between various community leaders which have resulted in a number of joint initiatives and opportunities for cooperation, such as with Stand Up, the



Young Australia Israel Chamber of Commerce, the Jewish Holocaust Centre and the National Council of Jewish Women.

- Participated in the multifaith meeting and service at St Paul's Cathedral in the aftermath of the Christmas Eve antiterrorism arrests.
- Regularly meets with representatives of a wide variety of communities and community representatives, including the **Victorian Council of Churches (VCC)**, Catholic Church, Anglican Church, Uniting Church, African communities, Muslims – Sunni and Shia, Buddhists, Hindus, Sikhs, Indians and many others to discuss issues of mutual concern and projects of mutual benefit. Almost all of these communities were extremely supportive and helpful in our Racial Discrimination Act advocacy.
- To represent the JCCV, and raise the profile of the issue of homelessness, I participated for the third time in the Vinnies CEO Sleepout. This year, I was also one of four Vinnies CEO Sleepout Ambassadors, helping to promote the cause, which included going around with the soup vans and assisting with promotion.



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:

- Vicki Rundle, Deputy CEO of the NDIA spoke at a JCCV Plenum on the National Disability Insurance Scheme.
- The JCCV held its first **LGBTI Mental Health Forum** to address mental health issues arising from the same sex marriage plebiscite and debate. Speakers included the CEO of SANE Australia Jack Heath, and representatives from Headspace, Keshet, Jewish Care Victoria and the Rabbinical Council of Victoria.
- NCJWA moved a successful motion at Plenum, which was seconded by AUJS, to support **Civil Same Sex Marriage**. It was supported by 41 delegates, none opposed and 4 abstained.
- The JCCV LGBTI Services Directory was updated, most importantly to add service providers in the mental health space.
- We partnered with the ARK Centre and Keshet on an 'LGBTI and Orthodox Jews' event with Rabbi Steve Greenberg from the USA
- The JCCV Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex (LGBTI) 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. The Working Group has also been refreshed with new members Dr Mark Cherny (Keshet) and Menachem Cylich (JADE).



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Youth Engagement

The JCCV is determined to ensure the engagement, health, safety and future of Jewish youth in our community:

- The very important **Youth Alcohol Project (YAP)** has continued over the year, extending across more Jewish day schools, delivering programs to students while also increasing the focus on communicating with and running forums with parents at each school.
 - o We would like to thank Bialik College, the King David School, Leibler Yavneh College, Mount Scopus Memorial College, Sholom Aleichem College and Yeshivah Beth Rivkah College for their support and cooperation. Many thanks also to our wonderful financial supporters the Frenkiel Estate, Gandel Philanthropy and the Erdi Group.
 - o We were very pleased during the year to welcome Rabbi Moshe Kahn (RCV & Chabad Youth) onto the YAP Steering Committee.
 - o We also continue our involvement with the Alcohol Policy Coalition, aiming to reduce harms from alcohol abuse.
- JCCV presented the **JCCV Young Leader Award** to help recognise and promote leadership in young members of our community.
- JCCV and Tzedek partnered on an interfaith child protection 'protective behaviours' event, and are working with Child Wise on a joint child protection program for next year. We also continue to circulate child protection guidelines and fact sheets around the Jewish community which are supplied by the Government or the Commissioner for Children and Young People. We also continued to strive for the extradition of Malka Leifer through ECAJ advocacy and by supporting a petition during the year.
- JCCV has engaged extensively with **AUJS** on a number of initiatives, including presenting at the AUJS Fellowship Retreat at Philip Island, working together extensively on Racial Discrimination Act advocacy, formation of the Coalition to Advance Multiculturalism, participation in the AUJS mentoring program and other initiatives.
- Youth Group and AUJS **Young Leadership Night** co-hosted with Zionism Victoria
- JCCV participated in the Victoria Police Commissioner's Youth Forum
- To foster youth engagement, youth group speakers – most notably at the first Plenum of the year, youth choirs and young musicians have participated in JCCV activities, most notably the Yom Hashoah Commemoration.

Jewish Continuity: Community strength and continuity through key events

JCCV plays a lead role in organising, co-hosting and/or supporting many major important events in the community,

including:

- **Yom Hashoah Commemoration** with over 1000 people attending this year, we partnered with the Jewish Holocaust Centre again in hosting the **United Nations Holocaust Remembrance Day (UNHRD)** commemoration and helped support the **Babi Yar Shostakovich Concert** at Hamer Hall recently organised by Dr George Deutsch.
- JCCV supported and/or participated in many key community events, including for Yom Hazikaron (sponsor and on the organising committee), the Yom Haatzmaut Concert, the Yom Haatzmaut Family Day and the 'In One Voice' Festival.
- Seven **JCCV Plenums** were held during the year in addition to the JCCV AGM, where delegates from our affiliates and interested community members came together to focus on issues of community interest and concern, including the following speakers over the past 12 months:
 - o Youth leader speakers at Plenum, including AUJS, MOTL, SKIF and Stand Up
 - o Affiliate presentations by NCJWA and Emmy Monash at JCCV Plenums hosted at their venues
 - o Vicki Rundle, Deputy CEO of the National Disability Insurance Agency
 - o Prof Andrew Markus, Monash University on Gen17
 - o Cheryl Holmes, CEO of Spiritual Health Victoria
 - o Alan Sunderland, Editorial Director of the Australian Broadcasting Commission (ABC)
 - o Rebecca McKenzie, CEO of the City of Glen Eira
 - o Anton Block, President of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry (ECAJ)
- Key community recognition awards presented at the JCCV Annual General Meeting, including the prestigious **Sir John Monash Award**, the **JCCV Young Leader Award**, and the **Marion and Kurt Lippman Scholarship**.
- Two Professional Development Seminars with Adam Slonim on Soft Power & Influence, and Communication. Thanks very much to Adam for his generosity of time and professionalism.
- **Boardroom Luncheon** jointly held with ECAJ with Prof Dina Porat, Chief Historian of Yad Vashem speaking on antisemitism.
- There was great progress in the **JCCV Spiritual Care Project** in our implementation of a community accreditation process for Jewish community Spiritual Care providers, including:



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- o **Memoranda of Understanding** were signed with the Rabbinical Council of Victoria (RCV) and Temple Beth Israel (TBI) for RCV and TBI to become accrediting organisations for Spiritual Carers. This is a critical step in implementing the accreditation process.
- o JCCV conducted a **Spiritual Carer training course** for Rabbis and volunteer Spiritual Carers, including RCV and Beit Rafael volunteers
- o JCCV conducted a **Train the Trainer course** for Rabbis and potential volunteer trainers, through Spiritual Health Victoria, so that the community has a larger pool of accredited trainers
- o We were very pleased during the year to welcome Rabbi Philip Heilbrunn (Caulfield HC), Rachel Mihalovich (RCV) and Rabbi Moshe Kahn (Chabad Youth) onto the JCCV Spiritual Care Advisory Group.
- o A JCCV **Jewish community spiritual care immersion day** was organised where Spiritual Care coordinators from hospitals, prisons and educational institutions 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 the Jewish Museum, St Kilda Hebrew Congregation, the Mikvah, and the Jewish Holocaust Centre, with a diverse range of speakers including Orthodox, Progressive and secular Jewish spokespeople, Holocaust Survivors and Rabbanim. This is the third year that we have run the program, and the second time that the day forms part of a formal subject at the Stirling Theological College.



- With the closure of the Jewish Taskforce Against Family Violence, the JCCV has increased its advocacy role in the **Family Violence** prevention area, while operational services fall within Jewish Care's domain, including:
 - o Participation in the State Multifaith Advisory Group Family Violence Working Group, and bringing Jewish Care onto the committee
 - o Participation in the Walk Against Family Violence with Jewish Care
 - o Speaking at the launch of a Family Violence Bystander Training Facilitator's Guide

Israel Advocacy

The JCCV was involved in a wide range of activities and events to help re-balance views in the general community on Israel, including:

- The annual Yom Haatzmaut Community Cocktail Reception with the Premier and Leader of the Opposition, with members of State and Federal Parliament held at State Parliament House in partnership with Zionism Victoria
- JCCV partnered with ECAJ, AIJAC, Zionism Victoria and ZFA in farewelling the Israeli Ambassador HE Shmuel Ben-Shmuel and will be doing the same to welcome the new Ambassador HE Mark Sofer on 26 November.
- JCCV was also involved in the planning of Prime Minister Netanyahu's historic visit to Australia.
- Community speaker events, including:
 - o MK Michal Biran evening in partnership with Zionism Victoria
 - o Prof Ephraim Inbar evening in partnership with Zionism Victoria



It also important to recognise that the JCCV administers the following programs on behalf of the community:

- o Council for Jewish Community Security
- o Council for Jewish Education in Schools
- o Marion and Kurt Lippmann Scholarship
- o Proof of life certification and other documentation support and advice for Holocaust Survivors.
- o Trudi Weiss Scholarship

In conclusion

Our professional team have delivered outstanding results this year, and I am delighted that Hilary McMahon, Anat Aloni and Julie Batty continue to be passionate, professional and driven to deliver for the community.

We have worked with many wonderful partners on events, advocacy initiatives and in working groups and committees, who are listed elsewhere in this report, but I would like to especially thank the following organisations, who are consistently excellent partners, a delight to work with and outstanding contributors to the community:

- Australian Union of Jewish Students (AUJS), especially Saul Burston, Lexi Kowal and Michael Fisher on a wide range of issues and activities,
- Australia/Israel & Jewish Affairs Council (AIJAC) on political and Israel related issues
- Executive Council of Australian Jewry (ECAJ) on national and international issues
- Jewish Care Victoria on a range of social justice, welfare and social inclusion issues

- Jewish Holocaust Centre (JHC) working together on Holocaust commemoration and education
- Jewish Museum of Australia (JMA) working together on Jewish education
- Multicultural Affairs and Social Cohesion Division of the State Government which helped us obtain generous Government support for our Social Cohesion program.
- Victorian Multicultural Commission (VMC) supporting social cohesion and cooperation across cultures
- Victoria Police working together for a safer and more harmonious community
- Zionism Victoria (ZV) working in support of Israel

Wishing everyone a healthy, happy and productive 2018!

David Marlow

JCCV MULTICULTURAL & INTERFAITH PORTFOLIO ANNUAL REPORT 2017

It has been my pleasure and honour to continue serving on the JCCV Executive holding the Multicultural and Interfaith portfolio.

As the JCCV Liaison to the FCCV (Faith Communities Council of Victoria) I regularly attend and participate 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. Some of the key issues under discussion over the past year include Child Safety, Domestic Violence and Gender and Sexual Equality. The FCCV's annual Interfaith Networks Conference took place under the auspices of the Darebin Interfaith Council. I chaired a session entitled, 'Voices of Youth: Faith, Interfaith and Multiculturalism'. The next Conference is scheduled to take place towards the end of the year, hosted for the first time by a council outside of Melbourne, the Bendigo Interfaith Council.

In my position as JCCV Liaison to the JCMA (Jewish Christian Moslem Association of Australia) I continue to regularly attend and participate in Board meetings, as well as to serve on the Schools Program Committee. The JCMA has engaged in a Strategic Planning initiative in order to clarify future directions and undertakings of the organisation. The Women's Committee and the Schools Committee are active and effective in terms of promoting the goals of interfaith understanding and social cohesion. Two successful JCMA Conferences were held this year. There has been an increase in the number of schools in which JCMA presenters have conducted the Schools program. The annual JCMA Friendship Walk was well-attended and it is hoped that the next one will also be widely supported. Planning is underway for the third 'Joint Journey to Jerusalem' in 2018 and the first women's 'Joint Journey to Jerusalem' in 2019.

I was invited to speak at the 'Women's Federation for World Peace'. Unfortunately, their event was scheduled for a Saturday. Instead, they filmed me speaking and showed it at their event!

Thank you to Jennifer Huppert for her very fine leadership and all Executive members for their support and collegiality. I would especially like to thank David Marlow, our Executive Director, for all his involvements in interfaith organisations and activities.

Frances Prince

Multicultural & Interfaith Portfolio Representative



SOCIAL JUSTICE REPORT

YOUTH ALCOHOL PROGRAM (YAP)

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



2017 has been kind to YAP, the program now reaches many more students and concerned parents:

Major developments:

- In 2017 the following schools participated in parents and students' sessions:

- Beth Rivkah Ladies College
Bialik College
Mount Scopus Memorial College
Leibler Yavneh College
Sholem Aleichem College
King David School



Picture YAP flyer

- Over 500 students have participated in this year's program and few hundred parents.
5 parent sessions held this calendar year so far and more to go.
14 student sessions held this calendar year so far (by the end of August) and 10 more are scheduled at this stage.
An active Facebook page with tips, tools, information and useful resources.
Victoria Police: with assistance from the Victoria Police Drug and Alcohol Strategy Unit and Priority Communities Division, Corporate Strategy, we have approached the respective Divisional Commanders in each area where Jewish schools are situated and now we have a local police officer participating in the parent sessions in each of the schools.
We have asked for permission from each school to allow external guests to participate in the parents' sessions and open it to more parents in the community who have kids who do not attend Jewish Schools. This has been a big step in expanding the project to the broader Jewish community.

- Feedback being collected from both parents and students was extremely positive and we use it to continuously improve and develop the program helping future generation cope with today's challenges. Feedback from parents included:
- Excellent speakers with very sensible rational approach
- Very good presentation Great range of professionals.Thought provoking
- It was a timely reminder for me as a parent of the risks alcohol presents to teens
- Very useful. There is always something new to learn
- This was an eye opener evening. Thank you for the useful information

MENTAL HEALTH

An amendment to The Mental Health Policy in the JCCV Policy Platform, was approved at Plenum. It is now section 3.23 Mental Health

This Council:

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

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

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

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

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

SPIRITUAL CARE

Key activities this year have included:

- Temple Beth Israel and the Rabbinical Council of Victoria became accrediting organisations for Jewish community Spiritual Carers
Spiritual Carer training course held with Rabbis and representatives from Beit Rafael and Synagogues

SOCIAL JUSTICE REPORT

- Spiritual Care Jewish Immersion Day successfully held with students from School of Divinity, including hospital Spiritual Carers, various chaplains and a prison chaplain
Spiritual Care 'Train the Trainer' course held for leaders from Rabbinical Council of Victoria, Chabad Youth and Beit Rafael, increasing the number of fully qualified volunteer trainers in the community from two to seven. Pastoral Care Photo

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 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.

I feel very blessed to be part of JCCV'S dedicated board, watching the highly professional JCCV staff, effortlessly endorsing endless activities to the Jewish community. I wish to thank especially David Marlow, JCCV Executive Director for his deep understanding and engaging and commitment, Anat Aloni, JCCV project officer whose passion and drive are contagious. I want to thank JCCV President Jennifer Huppert, my fellow Executive Members, and the highly professional JCCV staff, it has been an amazing to remember life journey!

Rimma Sverdlin OAM

SOCIAL INCLUSION REPORT

The JCCV had a big year advocating with community, interfaith and government leaders ensuring our community's voice is heard.

After two failed attempts by the Australian Government to hold a national non-binding plebiscite over a civil rights issue, many in the LGBTIQ+ community breathed a sigh of relief that they did not have to go through the anguish of hatred and vilification that such a vote would bring. However, the federal government decided to hold a non-binding postal survey.

Unfortunately, much of the hatred and vilification of the LGBTIQ+ community was all too common with propaganda in the streets of the Melbourne CBD and some "No" groups confusing the issue with alternate facts. It is with absolutely delight, eight years of strong advocacy for LGBTIQ+ social inclusion by the JCCV paved the way for the National Council of Jewish Women (VIC) to move and the Australasian Union of Jewish Students (VIC) to second a motion supporting civil marriage equality in October 2017. This is a vital step forward in ensuring the JCCV is truly the voice of Victorian Jewry remaining relevant for all individuals and families.



Many thanks goes to former JCCV President and LGBTI Reference Group founder John Searle, former Presidents Nina Bassat AM and Anton Block, current President Jennifer Huppert, the JCCV LGBTI Reference Group which commenced in 2009, David Marlow and the office of the JCCV, the National Council of Jewish Women (VIC), the Australasian Union of Jewish Students (VIC) and all affiliates who supported the motion.

Jewish children will now grow up knowing their roof body supports them and that the JCCV encourages all leaders to refer any individual struggling with sexual orientation or gender identity to seek professional and accredited support only.

Civil rights should never be dependent on a public survey; this is an abdication of responsibility by our parliamentarians. The non-binding postal survey on marriage equality was a horrific time for LGBTIQ+ Australians, both stirring up memories and emotions of the past and present.

We may be headed towards equality but we still have a long way to go for inclusion.

In response to some of these issues faced by the LGBTIQ+ community, the JCCV held a forum on how the mental health of the LGBTIQ+ community is affected by a lack of equality and inclusion and where individuals and families can go for support.

The JCCV also signed up to the Online Hate Prevention Institute's #debatewithouthate campaign, which encourages civilised discussion on issues as opposed to sprouting hatred and vilification, from whichever side of the debate they are supporting.

In fighting for LGBTIQ+ inclusion, the JCCV has fought for religious freedom by ensuring religious institutions are free to marry who they choose. The same sex marriage debate as it stands, is exclusively a matter of civil law.

Can social exclusion be caused by financial exclusion or financial disadvantage or poverty? The answer is clearly yes. Poverty is no longer solely a homeless individual sleeping rough on the street.

Poverty is the inability to afford essential goods and services resulting from individual circumstances and structural disadvantage that sees many miss out on opportunities and resources such as affordable housing, reasonable income, accessible health care, public education, employment and food.

20% of Victorian Jewry live below the poverty line, currently set at \$510.71 per week for a single person, \$683.18 for a couple or \$959.25 for a couple with 2 children. These individuals and families are members of our community; some are underemployed, some have been retrenched, some have been victims of financial abuse. We can overcome these issues together through education, support and advocacy.

Let's ensure we teach our children to be respectful of other peoples' circumstances, beliefs and encourage them to be resilient, independent and critical thinkers always in search of the objective truth.

Doron Abramovici

JEWISH EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN JEMP REPORT TO THE 2017 JCCV AGM



WHAT IS JEMP?

JEMP is a community-based emergency management plan coinciding with the State's Emergency Management

Manual Victoria, run by the Victorian Jewish community and providing a coordinated planning, response and recovery phase for major emergencies affecting the Victorian Jewish community whether the incident is local or abroad.

WHY DOES JEMP EXIST?

While the Victorian Government has produced an Emergency Management Manual Victoria (EMMV) which documents the State's arrangements for managing an emergency in Victoria, there are a number of reasons why Melbourne's Jewish community developed its own Emergency Management Plan to dovetail into certain aspects of Victoria's Emergency Plan. These include:

- Melbourne's Jewish community is seen by Australia's intelligence agencies as being in a higher risk category than the general Australian community;
- The general community has outstanding emergency services and planning but in a major emergency these resources will be stretched;
- There is general acknowledgement in the field of emergency planning and preparedness that communities return better and faster to 'normal' life following an emergency when the community itself is involved in its own response, recovery and rehabilitation;
- Like all community sub-groups, there are subtle nuances and cultural differences that may only be recognised by community members themselves, and these differences may enhance a better response and recovery for the community;
- The Jewish community in Victoria is blessed with many resources and it is appropriate that, in a major emergency affecting the Victorian Jewish community, that the community make these resources available to existing government agencies and emergency service organisations; and
- Finally, there may be instances when an event is categorised by the Jewish community as an emergency for the community but it may not be characterised as an emergency by the general community. This means that the Jewish community needs to plan its own response for such events.

THIS PAST YEAR

- The Technical Committee (TC) met at least monthly
- John Schurnik, Hatzolah, joined the TC to replace Ronit Lewis
- Jesse Coppel, CSG, left the TC when he left CSG – no replacement has been made as yet
- Training exercise offers were extended to a number of communal organisations
- Participated in a major training exercise at Mount Scopus Memorial College

- Youth Movements were briefed pre-Winter and Summer Camps
- Camp details for Youth Movements were logged and relevant event details (not participant details) were shared with CFA for the Summer Camps
- Advice was provided to several Youth Movements re their documentation and planning on their request
- Four Emergency Service Organisation (ESO) meetings were held at Yeshiva, Hatzolah, Jewish Care and SES for members of Victoria Police, Ambulance Victoria, CFA, City Councils, DHHS, Education Department and others
- Attended regular Municipal Emergency Council meetings at Port Phillip, Glen Eira, Bayside, Yarra and Stonnington
- Participated in major Council Training sessions held by the Councils above
- Had input into the above Council's Emergency Management Plans
- Contributed to the Emergency Management Plan for the Australian contingent at Maccabiah
- Was invited to speak to the senior leadership of the CFA
- Were invited to a meeting of communal leadership and CSG re emergency management leadership in our community
- Proposed a name change: JEMP is the acronym for Jewish Emergency Management Plan which, actually, is a misnomer because JEMP is actually a 'provider' which has a plan. Accordingly, the proposed name change, of changing the word 'Plan' to 'Provider' will be put to the JEMP's AGM this year as it more appropriately describes what JEMP yet does not change its acronym
- Proposed a change to the mission statement to align it with terminology now required for DGR status
- Successfully secured a grant from City of Glen Eira to update our 20 Questions booklet
- Based on the ESO meeting held at Yeshiva, we are preparing a case study for Emergency Victoria's journal re the Bourke Street tragedy

THANKS

- To the TC which comprises Rabbi Ronnie Figdor OAM, Danny Elbaum, Saul Midler, Andrew Litwinow, Frank Gaensler, John Schurnik and Ricky Pearl
- To Ronit Lewis and Jesse Coppel for their input while on the TC
- To Kathy Kaplan OAM for her administrative support

JCCV POLICY PLATFORM

SUBJECT

1	PREAMBLE
2	OUR MANDATE
3	OUR POLICIES
3.1	INTRODUCTION
3.2	THE VICTORIAN JEWISH COMMUNITY
3.3	CULTURAL DIVERSITY
3.4	INTERFAITH RELATIONS
3.5	RACISM IN VICTORIA
3.6	ANTI-RACIST ACTION
3.7	RESPECT
3.8	ANTISEMITISM
3.9	REPORTING OF ANTISEMITIC INCIDENTS
3.10	HOLOCAUST DENIAL
3.11	HOLOCAUST RHETORIC
3.12	HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE
3.13	RESTITUTION
3.14	TERRORISM
3.15	JEWISH EDUCATION
3.16	GENDER EQUITY
3.17	YOUTH REPRESENTATION
3.18	STATE CEREMONIES
3.19	ACCOMMODATION OF RELIGIOUS PRACTICES
3.20	JEWISH BURIAL RIGHTS
3.21	GET REFUSAL
3.22	SOCIAL JUSTICE
3.23	MENTAL HEALTH
3.24	INTEGRATION
3.25	ABORIGINAL RECONCILIATION
3.26	CLIMATE CHANGE
3.27	STEM CELL RESEARCH
3.28	ISRAEL
3.29	ALCOHOL
3.30	CHILD PROTECTION
3.31	DISABILITY

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.

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

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

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

3.24 INTEGRATION

This Council:

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

3.24.2 RESOLVES to support affiliate organisations in

JCCV POLICY PLATFORM

taking active steps to absorb and integrate these immigrants into our community's core.

3.25 ABORIGINAL RECONCILIATION

This Council:

- 3.25.1 RECOGNISES Indigenous people as the first Australians, with unique cultures, languages and spiritual relationships to the land and waters.
- 3.25.2 PURSUES a vision of an Australia that provides equal rights and life chances for all.
- 3.25.3 AFFIRMS the fundamental importance of reconciliation as the basis of an Australian Community which respects the diversity of values, cultures, ideas and the contribution of all people.
- 3.25.4 SUPPORTS programs that encourage organisations and individuals to turn their good intentions into action. Areas for action may include the Council using its networks to:
 - Raise community awareness and understanding of the historic, social and economic factors which contribute to the current levels of disadvantage confronting many Indigenous people and communities.
 - Influence governments and business to address the systemic issues that keep many Indigenous people and their communities in poor health and poverty.
 - Support human rights based approaches to economic and social development programs in Indigenous communities; and
 - Lead inter-faith alliances to develop and provide targeted financial and capacity building support to selected projects which strengthen Indigenous organisations' governance, management, service delivery and professional development.
- 3.25.5 ENCOURAGES the Jewish community to increase its knowledge and understanding of the identity and experiences of Indigenous peoples and reflect this awareness in our social relationships and our support for their advancement.
- 3.25.6 CALLS UPON the government, business and civil communities and people of Victoria to take action to reduce the relative disadvantage many Indigenous people may face by improving education, health, housing, employment, governance, social and communal relationships and law and justice
- 3.25.7 ENCOURAGES our affiliates and other Jewish organisations and individuals to support and pursue reconciliation in their activities.

3.26 CLIMATE CHANGE THIS COUNCIL:

- 3.26.1 NOTES that climate change is a major challenge facing Victoria and the world. The current drought, water shortages, bush fires and record temperatures remind all Australians of our nation's vulnerability to climate change.
- 3.26.2 SUPPORTS efforts to bring together Australian faith communities to take action on climate change.
- 3.26.3 DECLARES its support for action to tackle Australia's rising greenhouse gas emissions.

3.27 STEM CELL RESEARCH

This Council:

- 3.27.1 NOTES that leading rabbinic authorities have given their support to the use of existing embryos for stem cell research, mindful that Jewish law concerns itself that such embryos are only appropriately obtained.
- 3.27.2 NOTES that stem cell research offers great hope to many sufferers and contains the potential to rectify painful, debilitating and life shortening genetic conditions.
- 3.27.3 SUPPORTS properly conducted research into the saving of life as a part of our human mandate to act in the image of G-d, to heal and to be merciful.
- 3.27.4 CALLS ON all JCCV affiliates to encourage Victorian Jews to publicly support the opportunities which stem cell research provides as reinforcing and not diminishing the sanctity of life.

3.28 ISRAEL

This Council:

- 3.28.1 AFFIRMS Victorian Jewry's strong and enduring solidarity with Israel and her people.
- 3.28.2 APPLAUDS the Victorian government's relationship and agreements with numerous Israeli governmental institutions, Israeli and public bodies and academic institutions.
- 3.28.3 STRONGLY URGES all Jews, individually as well as communally and institutionally, to visit Israel and schedule events in Israel.
- 3.28.4 APPLAUDS the success of many Israel experience programs operated by Australian Jewish organisations in partnership with Israel.

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

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YEARS

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