

Position Statement

People Living with Disability

Jewish Care has one clear vision: **Together, building and supporting a healthy, resilient, and inclusive Jewish community.** Our values are universal and enduring in nature, but are also particular to the Jewish approach to creating a meaningful life, and a strong, cohesive community.

Our foundational values define who we are and underpin everything we do. The values, **Respect** (*derech eretz*), **Community** (*kehilla*), **Inclusion** (*hachlala*) and **Social Responsibility** (*achrayoot chevratit*), are about people - they provide a moral compass for the way we respond to challenges and the decisions we make.

These values pervade every aspect Jewish Care, informing relationships between colleagues, staff and clients, and our organisation and the wider community.

The Board of Jewish Care seeks to demonstrate our commitment to these values by clearly stating Jewish Care's position on important issues that are contextual to the Jewish community's rich history or because it frames the way we will conduct ourselves and our engagement with members of the community.

Preface

Jewish Care acknowledges that within Australian society, people living with disability have not always had access to contribute to society via valued social roles within their communities, nor have they always been granted the authority to be involved in decisions that affect their lives.

In 2006, the United Nations adopted the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities “...to promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disabilities, and to promote respect for their inherent dignity. Persons with disabilities include those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others”ⁱ.

Jewish Care delivers support to people within disability services utilising the Active Support Model: “...Active Support, one of a number of person centred approaches, is a way of working that enables everyone, no matter what their level of intellectual or physical disability, to make choices and participate in meaningful activities and social relationships”ⁱⁱ.

דרך ארץ
derech eretz
respect

קהילה
kehilla
community

הכללה
hachlala
inclusion

אחריות חברתית
achrayoot chevratit
social responsibility

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Position Statement

Jewish Care supports the implementation and embodiment of the General Principles of the United Nations Convention on Persons Living with Disabilitiesⁱⁱⁱ:

- Respect for inherent dignity, individual autonomy including the freedom to make one's own choices, and independence of persons;
- Non-discrimination;
- Full and effective participation and inclusion in society;
- Respect for difference and acceptance of persons with disabilities as part of human diversity and humanity;
- Equality of opportunity;
- Accessibility; and
- Respect for the evolving capacities of children with disabilities and respect for the right of children with disabilities to preserve their identities.

Jewish Care also actively promotes any and all opportunities whereby people living with a disability are meaningfully engaged in activities and social relationships within the general community, and not always solely reliant on specific disability services or supports to live their life. Jewish Care favours services and supports that include, and promote the inclusion, of all members of a community in a natural, sustainable and meaningful manner.

In addition, Jewish Care advocates for community organisations', groups and businesses to implement inclusive practices with the endeavour of having a community that champions equitable and inclusive access to employment, education and community participation.

This Position Statement was updated August 2018 and will be reviewed in August 2020.

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ⁱ United Nations 2006, *Convention on the Rights of Personal with Disabilities (CRPD)*, United Nations, viewed 27 September 2017

<<http://www.un.org/disabilities/documents/convention/convoptprot-e.pdf>>.

ⁱⁱ Person Centered Active Support La Trobe University 2015, *Every Moment Has Potential*, viewed 27 September 2017 <<http://www.activesupportresource.net.au/>>.

ⁱⁱⁱ United Nations 2006, *Convention on the Rights of Personal with Disabilities (CRPD)*, United Nations, viewed 27 September 2017

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