

# MY CONNECTION

Please  
donate to our  
**Annual  
Appeal**



(L-R) Amanda Filleul, Practice  
Leader Disability services  
with Sophie Greene (client)



**Lisa Kennett OAM**  
President

# A message from our President & CEO



**Gayle Smith**  
Chief Executive

Welcome to the Autumn edition of *My Connection*.

First and foremost, we must acknowledge the war between Israel and Hamas. Our hearts are with the hostages, the IDF and the people of Israel. We pray for a peaceful resolution and the safe return of the hostages soon.

Here in Melbourne, we understand the impact this war has had on our community, the concern for loved ones in Israel and our collective bewilderment at the rise of antisemitism here at home. This year's Seder was complex – celebrating freedom whilst hostages remain in Gaza and Israeli families are not free to return to their homes. We are mindful that the celebration of Pesach is not a moment in time but the continuing story of the Jewish people.

In response, we have provided additional support and relief to those affected, including Australians who have returned from Israel since October 7. We have helped them reintegrate, access Centrelink, find temporary housing and counselling if they need it. We have also assisted those who feel unsafe at work or at school. As new needs arise, we will continue to respond, providing vital services and standing strong together.

We're also pleased to share some happier news. In March, we welcomed Gayle Smith as our Interim Chief Executive, following the retirement of Alan Lilly. Gayle brings a wealth of experience in Aged Care & Disability Services reform with a focus on quality, safety, and continuous improvement. Having worked at Jewish Care since February 2023, she knows who we are and what we stand for and she is dedicated to upholding our Jewish values whilst delivering excellence in care and support.

Our Jewish Life team have been busy preparing for Pesach which we celebrated with clients in Disability Housing, residents of Aged Care and those we support in their own homes. The Rabbis have been extremely busy, and we thank them for the important work they do in making Jewish Care such a special place for our clients.

Another focus has been supporting and investing in our staff. Last year we saw record-low staff turnover and record-low reliance on agency staff. Through social media and a streamlined recruitment process, we have welcomed over 200 new staff since September. We are dedicated to creating environments where people love to work as we know this is vital to ensure high quality services for our clients.

We also continue to meet and exceed all applicable industry standards. Recently, Gary Smorgon House had a 'spot check' visit from the Aged Care Quality & Safety Commission. Their assessors left with glowing feedback. Well done and thank you to all involved!

Our Social Support Groups continue to bring community members together. Led by our dynamic program leader Vincenzo De Paolis, these groups offer a range of activities and fun trips. Responses have been heart-warming, noting how both clients and families feel connected and involved.

We are also proud of our Rainbow Tick re-accreditation, recognising our commitment to inclusivity and care for LGBTIQ+ clients, volunteers and staff. Feedback commended our services and environments that create a sense of belonging for all.

If you are in the Windsor area, come and visit The Camit & Nathan Cher Family Cafe, which recently reopened its doors. Already popular with residents, family members and staff, you'll find a delicious menu of kosher barista coffee, meals and snacks.

Lastly, a big thank you to all of you who support us. You are the reason we can continue our important work. Our Annual Appeal is now underway, and we ask you to support us. We cannot continue the important work we do without the funds raised during our Annual Appeal.

Help us help OUR community.





**Rabbi Ralph  
Genende OAM**

# Questions, questions...

The Jewish people are known for their love of questioning. Learning, debate and argument are part of our DNA. Our communal interactions are often feisty, and we boldly challenge the status quo. Our detractors might call this 'chutzpah' plain arrogance. But for us, it is a sign of strength.

We have been a questioning people from our very inception. In asking, 'Will not the creator of Justice act justly?' Abraham, the first Jew, even had the audacity to question God himself! Questioning is not against our faith – it is part of it. Judaism's explanatory text, the Talmud, establishes a practice of voicing differences of opinion and we study our texts with a Socratic approach. This might explain our disproportionate success as lawyers, innovators, creatives and Nobel Prize winners. The State of Israel, the Israeli novelist Amos Oz joked, is a country of extended argument itself. The ability to live with a difficult question is the sign of a mature mind.

If anything characterises the festival of Pesach it is the question. The Seder meal embodies the spirit of

enquiry with the most poignant being, 'Why is this night different from all other nights?'

This year, after October 7, we sorrowfully know the answer. This is a dark and dreadful period, and it is easy to feel demoralised by global antisemitism, hatred towards Israel, the propaganda and protestors blocking streets from Flinders Street Station to Trafalgar Square. It is, however, imperative that we recognise the denouement of the Passover Story: it began with pain and shame but ended in gain and fame and is now the most celebrated narrative of freedom and liberation for Western culture. It is a story of human courage, forbearance and hope. It is the story of resilience, enduring optimism and strength of the Jewish people.

Judaism has always taught us that obstacles are temporary and that we have the power to overcome them. Martin Luther King said that hatred is not beaten by hatred, but by love. Similarly, the late Rabbi Jonathan Sacks said we do not vanquish evil with hate, we vanquish it with faith in life.



At Jewish Care, we embody faith in life and a belief in people which inspires our work every single day. It is with this spirit that we will overcome this dark period. We will, in the words of the Haggadah, move from misery to joy, from mourning to celebration, from deep darkness to great light.

I hope you had a happy and meaningful Pesach.



Supporting our community  
for over 175 years

# Support us to Support OUR Community

## Annual Appeal 2024

As we navigate through these troubling times, the impact on our community cannot be overstated. With a dramatic rise in antisemitism here and overseas, Jewish Care has been inundated with unprecedented calls for assistance.

Jewish Care has been here for our community for over 175 years. We understand the cultural, religious and special needs of the community (including those of our Holocaust survivors).

With little government funding, we rely on the generosity of you, our donors and our supporters, to ensure our Social Services and Disability team are always here to

assist individuals and families who are facing difficult or complex challenges in life.

Our services include our Housing Support Program, which, in collaboration with our social workers, ensures that those who are at risk of homelessness can find a safe, affordable and secure place to call home.

Integration with other programs including Financial Support Services and our Employment Centre assists individuals and families with financial counselling, financial aid, and employment if needed.

We know that mental health issues do not discriminate. There are countless individuals and families across

our community who have struggled with its impacts. Our social workers assist with a range of needs, such as support to access and navigate the mental health system and links to counselling and psychology services.

Our support is not 'one-size-fits-all'. With collaboration from other community organisations, including C Care and the Melbourne Jewish Charity Fund, we focus on providing a compassionate and culturally safe response that is tailored to our clients' unique needs and circumstances.

Our goal at Jewish Care is to provide a service wrap-around and equip those in need with skills, training, confidence and connections to change their lives now and into the future.

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**This year, due to increasing demand for our services, we need to raise \$5 million.**

We need to stand together to support each other, which is why we are asking you to please give generously to our **2024 Annual Appeal**.

Whatever your gift, you can be certain that it will have a significant impact.

We know that the grief we are all experiencing is profound but please be reassured that with your support and generosity, we are here to assist the vulnerable and those in need in our community, as we have done for over 175 years.

**Thank you for *Supporting us to Support OUR Community.***

## How your gift can Support us to Support OUR Community:



Help provide those in our community who are at risk of homelessness with a safe, affordable and secure place to call home.



Support those experiencing family violence to find safety and rebuild their lives.



Help the unemployed who are facing financial hardship to find a job.



Empower those living with disability to reach their full potential.

### *4 easy ways to donate*

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#### **DIRECT DEPOSIT**

**BSB: 013-423 A/C: 836 062 666**

**A/C Name: Jewish Care (Vic) Inc**

## Open Day is a huge success

We are excited to welcome the community back into our homes without masks, and on Sunday 17 March we held our first Open Day of the year at Residential Home Windsor (RHW). Open Days play a crucial role in breaking down stereotypes around aged care, offering the community a taste of the warm and stimulating environment we offer in our homes.

The event kicked off with afternoon tea in our state-of-the-art Hannah & Daryl Cohen Family building. This was followed by a Community Conversation titled 'Let's talk Dementia', discussing current practices and future horizons in dementia care.

It was heartening to see an engaged audience at this year's first Community Conversations event. Attendees had many questions, which were expertly answered by Dr Simon Grof, Geriatrician and Chief Medical Officer at Jewish Care.

As the conversation unfolded, it became clear that dementia is a growing issue, and this is something

we see firsthand at Jewish Care. That's why our environments provide not only necessary safety and comfort for our residents but also reduce social isolation, positively impacting overall wellbeing and mental health.

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**“The friendly and caring staff, who consistently follow up on anything we may need, have made the move into residential aged care so much easier.”**

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We extend our deepest thanks to all who joined us, including Dr Simon Grof and our dedicated team. We look forward to future Community Conversations, which provide the opportunity to connect, promote education, and ultimately strengthen the way we approach care in our community.

Jill and Leon Diamond have been permanent residents at RHW since October 2023, following a stint in respite when their children went to Israel. They shared that the respite experience really helped them get used to the warm and welcoming environment.

*“The friendly and caring staff, who consistently follow up on anything we may need, have made the move into residential aged care so much easier. Leon and I feel really happy in our new home,”* said Jill.

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(L-R) Michael Diamond with his parents Jill and Leon Diamond







(L-R) Bunny Wald, Dr Dawn Macintyre and Rebbetzen Miriam Wainstein

## Residential Home Carnegie

# Food to nourish the body and soul

Food holds a special place in Jewish culture. For us, it's not just sustenance, but a way of life. Our dishes evoke meaning and memories. Through food, we connect with our history, community and sense of home.

Residential Home Carnegie (RHC) embraced this rich culinary heritage by gathering residents, friends and families for a spectacular Chanukah Celebration where we savoured popcorn and donuts galore. Rebbetzen Miriam gave a cooking demonstration and residents eagerly participated, enjoying the hands-on experience of crafting fruit kebabs. To make sure our catering team could replicate traditional flavours, Miriam also shared her Booba's recipe for latkes!

One of our most popular events at RHC is High Tea, which is hosted every three months. This elegant affair features music by volunteer Raymond, while residents relax in the lounge and indulge in an assortment of sweet and savoury finger food. Another popular get-together is Happy Hour, where we serve canapés and

nibbles at the bar. The bar is also where our Gentlemen's Club gathers bi-monthly for lively discussions and a refreshing beer, cider or wine.

To elevate the dining experience, we regularly host a Fine Dining Brunch. Eggs, muffins, pancakes and fresh fruit are on offer while Raymond's melodies fill the air.

When weather permits, we also host a monthly BBQ, allowing residents to enjoy the laid-back atmosphere of our cafe while savouring grilled dishes and uplifting tunes.

Along with our regular Resident Meetings, where feedback on life at Jewish Care is shared, we also have a monthly Food Focus Meeting. This ensures that our catering and lifestyle managers are aware of food requirements, allowing us to continually improve and meet our residents' catering needs.

In providing such a variety of dining experiences we take care to not only nourish the body but also nurture the soul.

## Around the Homes

### Gary Smorgon House

# Friendship Lunches are back



Carmela Mizrachi (L) and Esther Galak (R)

In a heart-warming act of community spirit, four residents from Gary Smorgon House were invited to enjoy an uplifting Friendship Lunch at the home of a community member and generous supporter of Jewish Care.

It was a refreshing change of scenery and an opportunity to mingle with residents from our other homes in a family setting. The 16 guests were treated to a delicious meal and musical entertainment from professional violinist Ella Zak.

*"We're delighted to have the Friendship Lunches back on our monthly schedule as we know that social*

*engagement has a profound impact on the residents' mental, emotional and physical health. For many, these lunches provide a sense of family and connection they may not otherwise get to enjoy,"* said Rochelle Mendel, committee leader for 10 years.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who help make these events happen. They not only show the warmth of our community but deepen an important sense of belonging that contributes to the overall wellbeing of everyone involved. Each lunch is a reaffirmation of the ties that bind us, ensuring that our residents feel valued, supported, and have a sense of connection and joy.

## A taste of satisfaction

We all know how important food is in our community and this has been a focus of improvement in residential aged care over the past few years.

In a move to better cater for our residents, we decided to bring food services in-house, having previously used an external company. This is already paying dividends and our efforts haven't gone unnoticed!

According to the latest data from the Aged Care Quality & Safety Commission, the average food satisfaction score across our three residential homes has topped other Jewish-specific homes in Melbourne, Perth and Sydney. And if that wasn't impressive enough, Residential Home Windsor and Gary Smorgon House have the highest individual scores across all Jewish-specific homes in Australia!

Vaughan Rollings, our Hotel Services Manager, said, *"We are passionate about providing a great mealtime experience for our elders. At our regular Food Focus Meetings, we invite residents to share their feedback on what's hitting the spot and where we can do better. We are also strongly emphasising food service training to make sure residents enjoy exceptional experiences as they dine.*

*Needless to say, we were thrilled to hear about our residents' satisfaction levels. It's a testament to the hard work and dedication of our catering team. Providing happiness and nourishment is something we take immense pride in. We look forward to making more delicious meals and happy hearts ahead."*



# Inclusive fun for everyone!

We are thrilled to share the latest updates on our Children's Holiday Group Outings & Activities Program. Over the past months, we have had the pleasure of welcoming children aged 6-17 with all levels of disability to join in on the fun. Our goal is to provide a safe and nurturing 'home-away-from-home' experience, offering both on-site activities as well as exciting excursions.

There's never a dull moment in our program. Children have enjoyed visits to the zoo, aquarium, and sculpture parks, as well as art therapy, sensory play, cooking, and even disco parties. The enthusiasm and high level of engagement from kids and families have been fantastic, and our Christmas holiday program was fully booked for five weeks straight!

One parent shared their enthusiasm, saying, *"It's really fantastic, caring and friendly. Our daughter loved it last time and talks about wanting to go back again."*

Our Respite team is fully equipped with the skills and knowledge to support children with complex needs and

provide a safe and inclusive environment for everyone. Based at our purpose-built Children's Respite Centre on Glen Eira Road, our activities and outings are tailored to be age-appropriate, with 1 to 1 support and 2 to 1 support where required.

In addition to our extended school holiday programs, we host regular Sunday sessions from 9.30am–3.30pm, as well as day outings and overnight stays. Our respite services not only offer families a well-deserved break but also empower children to engage, learn, and explore a wide range of new experiences they might not otherwise get to enjoy.

At the Coppel & Piekarski Family Disability Respite Centre, we promise a safe, homely and culturally sensitive environment for your children. For more information or to book your child's place in our upcoming activities, please reach out to us at [DRCrespitebooking@jewishcare.org.au](mailto:DRCrespitebooking@jewishcare.org.au).

We look forward to welcoming you and your family to our exciting program of events.



(L-R) Disability support worker and Theo Greene (client)

# Jewish Care launches *Tuning In To Teens*

Our Social Services team recently launched the *Tuning In To Teens* program. This group-based education program is designed for parents and carers of young people and runs over the course of six weeks. Developed by the University of Melbourne, it draws on the work of Dr John Gottman and Dr Dan Siegel to explore strategies for parents to help their teens recognise, understand and manage their emotions – and in doing so, strengthen their connection with their child.

*“We had been delivering the original series, Tuning In To Kids, for the past few years as part of our Raising Healthy Families program, and had incredible feedback on its impact from parents and children,”* says social

worker and *Tuning In* facilitator Jacqui Rosen. *“More and more we were hearing from parents of adolescents who were looking for support, so we expanded our offering to include teens.”*

While the program shares many of the principles of the original *Tuning In To Kids* series, it explores the unique needs and challenges of adolescence and how a parent’s relationship with their child might shift during this time.

*“The teenage years can be a challenge – for parents and their young person,”* says Jacqui, *“but it can also be a beautiful time. As well as normalising the difficulties, we explore what’s great about parenting teens – watching them grow and learn new ways of thinking about themselves and the world.”*

In delivering the program, Jacqui draws not only on her professional expertise but her role as a parent – though she learns just as much from the participants and truly values their willingness to share.

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**“The teenage years can be a challenge – for parents and their young person. But it can also be a beautiful time.”**

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The program was launched in late October when families were reeling from the events of October 7. *“It was a privilege to be able to support parents as they worked out how to best guide their young people; how they could respond to the ‘big feelings’ that have and will continue to come up – while highlighting the importance of caring for themselves as well.”*

The next *Tuning In To Teens* series will take place later in 2024. To express your interest, contact Cassandra at [cbarrett@jewishcare.org.au](mailto:cbarrett@jewishcare.org.au)



*Tuning In To Teens* facilitators Jacqui Rosen (R) and Cassandra Barrett (L).



# Jewish Care provides a safe place to heal



In the days following the horrors of October 7, Yehudit\* was in Israel, terrified and alone. Aged 74, with no partner or children, she decided her best option was to flee for Australia via a repatriation flight. Arriving in Melbourne, Yehudit had nothing but a small bag of clothes. Overwhelmed with navigating unfamiliar systems and unsure where or how to begin, she turned to Jewish Care.

Upon calling the Front Door, Yehudit was immediately connected to a social worker with whom she began to talk through her trauma and distress. Together, through many phone calls and meetings, they developed a plan of services and supports. Perhaps most importantly, Yehudit was provided with transitional housing through Jewish Care's Housing Support Program while her social

worker quickly organised furniture, homewares and groceries. With a safe place to call home,

Yehudit was at last able to breathe a sigh of relief.

Yehudit spent six months in Melbourne, connecting with loved ones and recuperating from her ordeal before deciding she was ready to return to Israel.

Yehudit's sister recently shared these beautiful words: *"In times of war, in times of struggle; thank you for holding my sister's hand, for providing a home. The care you gave her was unbelievable. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts."*

*\*Name changed for privacy reasons.*

## Empowering staff. Elevating care.

We recently launched a series of new training programs to empower our staff to engage in improvement initiatives and enhance the experience of our residents, clients and their families.

The initial program brought together 20 team members from across our organisation to focus on problem-solving, collaboration, and professional growth. Staff were introduced to new approaches for understanding problems and managing change that puts the 'customer' at the centre of improvement efforts.

Attendees provided positive feedback and have started implementing their learnings, resulting in improved performance, increased efficiency and, most importantly, a better experience for our clients and residents.

*"I loved how the learnings were so interactive. By 'doing' and then 'applying' our learning it was easy to understand the content. We could then consider how to apply this to our own improvement initiative. As well as walking away with a plan, the coaching sessions were also excellent."* – **Jan Rice, Organisation Improvement Manager**

*"I've been involved in improvement practises in prior roles, however learning the theory and structure to the improvement process was very valuable."*

– **Vaughan Rollings, Hotel Services Manager**

At Jewish Care, we value the dedication and contribution of every staff member, and we support their potential by equipping them with the tools they need to deliver the highest-quality care. By investing in our staff, we not only strengthen their sense of belonging and engagement but also elevate the overall experience of those we serve.

Through these ongoing initiatives, we are cultivating a culture of ownership, proactivity and continuous improvement that elevates our offering and the wellbeing of our community of residents, clients, families and friends.

We're looking forward to the opportunities our next series of training programs will bring.



# Good deeds that meet community needs

## *Jewish Care volunteers shortlisted for a Mitzvah Day Award!*

We are thrilled to be on the shortlist for the Edwin and Ester Shuker Outstanding International Mitzvah Day Award. Founded in the UK in 2005, Mitzvah Day has grown into a global movement where thousands of volunteers put their Jewish values into action, engaging in acts of kindness that strengthen community bonds. The winner was announced on 11 April 2024 and unfortunately Jewish Care did not receive the award. It was a thrill to be nominated.

Maria Galvan, our wonderful Volunteer Manager, worked tirelessly to bring together three Mitzvah Day events across our homes.

On Sunday 19 November 2023, we celebrated Mitzvah Day spreading joy and goodwill to residents, clients, and the community. The sense of togetherness and shared purpose was palpable, and the collective efforts of our volunteers and participants made it a memorable occasion for all involved.



## Meet our volunteers

**How much of an impact do you feel your volunteering has made?**



*"Volunteering, and mentoring specifically, is a two-way street. Seeing my Mentees grow in real time and that I'm actively making a difference helps us both feel the rewards."*

– Eytan



*"I may not be able to save the world, but volunteering allows me to make a positive impact and, in some small way, make it a better place."*

– Jon



*"My work visibly uplifts residents' spirits, and it has also inspired my network to volunteer, reflecting the ripple effect of positive change."*

– Simeon

## Volunteering Opportunities – Can you help?

We have various volunteering opportunities available. If you are interested in a new and exciting opportunity or know someone who might be, please contact Maria, our Volunteer Program Manager, on 0475 276 489 or [mgelvan@jewishcare.org.au](mailto:mgelvan@jewishcare.org.au)

- **Lecturer and Discussion Facilitator (English or Russian)**
- **Senior Lunch Assistant**
- **Exercise Instructor**
- **Friendly Visitor (English or Russian)**
- **Craft Enthusiast**
- **Cooking Demonstrator and Presenter**
- **Concierge**
- **Musician**
- **Mini-Bus Driver**
- **Gardening Companion**

# Share Your Simcha



## Noah Medyan's Bar Mitzvah

Noah has kindly requested donations to Jewish Care's social justice programs in lieu of gifts for his Bar Mitzvah.

*"I don't like to see people suffer or go through a hard time. Jewish Care helps a wide range of people in the Melbourne Jewish Community to make their lives better. Now that I am Bar Mitzvah, I want to do more to help the community."*

## Frank's 10th birthday

Frank has kindly requested donations for Jewish Care in lieu of gifts for his 10th birthday.

*"I feel very grateful for the house and food I have. It makes me sad to see so many people struggling to have both of these things. I don't need anything for my birthday, and would rather people give the money they would spend on gifts for me to those who need it."*



## Margaret Langley 70th birthday

Margaret has kindly requested donations to Jewish Care in lieu of gifts for her 70th birthday.

*"In these tough economic and social times, it is more important than ever to support those in need in our community. Jewish Care provides that support, and it is my privilege to support Jewish Care to deliver its many much needed programs."*

## JEWISH CARE FINANCIAL SERVICES

### Interest-Free Loans Available



If you would like to speak to a Financial Counsellor or apply for a loan please contact our Front Door on (03) 8517 5999

**Empower**  
Jewish Care Interest-Free Loans

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Need a New Car?  
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**We are here to help!**

*\*Conditions apply*





# Care & Ageing Well Expo

Jewish Care recently participated in the ACCPA Care & Ageing Well Expo, the pinnacle event in the Aged Care Industry, held at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre on 10 and 11 of February.

Representatives from our Home Care and Residential Aged Care divisions enjoyed a packed agenda featuring a thought-provoking keynote speaker, interactive sessions, and ground-breaking products and services.

This was the first time Jewish Care had participated at the Expo and it was a valuable opportunity to engage with industry leaders, share best practices, and learn about the latest innovations in aged care.

By being part of this event, Jewish Care demonstrated its commitment to shaping a more resilient and agile future for our community elders, and continuously improving our quality of care.

# Generations of Women Brunch

We were delighted to welcome over 350 women to Jewish Care's 26th Annual Generations of Women Brunch on Thursday 29 February at Lincoln of Toorak.

Guests heard keynote speaker Gemma Tognini, commentator and broadcaster, speak passionately about her career in journalism, her love of Israel and her affection for our local Jewish community.

Through the generosity of our guests and sponsors - the Spotlight Foundation, Gandel Foundation and Guests Accounting - the event raised vital funds in support of Jewish Care's Housing Support Program, ensuring that individuals and families at risk of homelessness receive the assistance they urgently need.

We would like to thank Gemma, our generous sponsors, and all our guests for their support. Together, we are

strengthening the bonds that unite us as a community and reaffirming our collective resolve to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those in need.



(L-R) Committee members Hilary Cohen, Melissa Davis, Miriam Farkas, Gemma Tognini (guest speaker), Lauren Hunter, Rachel Arber, Keren Zelwer



# Meet our Donors



*Lindy Tamir has been a donor for many years.*

**Tell us briefly about your life (background and current status).**

Eddie and I own and run the Classic, Ritz, Lido and Cameo Cinemas. Our passion project is JIFF, the Jewish International Film Festival.

**Where do your philanthropic values and beliefs come from?**

My parents and grandparents instilled the importance of giving. My father, Berni Hamersfeld, gives the moment he sees someone in need. It must be done immediately, and I often have to help him with direct banking on the computer!

**Is it important to you that your children be community-minded and philanthropic?**

By supporting Jewish Care, we are showing our five adult children and five grandsons the importance of giving back to the community.

**What are your feelings about Jewish Care and the work it does for the community?**

I know that I'm shielded from the deep financial issues in our community. If I knew the details of every person struggling, I would want to give to them all - but by giving to Jewish Care, I can be sure that they are doing this important work on our behalf.

**What message would you like to pass on to future generations about giving back to their community?**

Jewish Care is community-oriented and caters to all ages and political and religious leanings, just as we do with JIFF. No other organisation in our community has the breadth of services and opportunities that Jewish Care offers and I like the concept in Judaism that giving back to the community is a form of social justice in which donors feel the benefits of giving as much as the recipients.

# Leaving a gift in your Will has the power to change lives

***Leaving a gift in your Will can help build a better tomorrow for our community.***

Jewish Care has a proud 175-year history of supporting families and individuals in our community and is committed to continuing to support those in need.

As our visionary founders intended, the priority at Jewish Care is to support the most vulnerable members of our Jewish community. By leaving a gift in your Will to Jewish Care, you will embody the same visionary commitment as our founders.

No other Jewish organisation in Australia offers such diverse services to meet our community's care and support needs.

The thoughtfulness and foresight of our treasured bequestors continues to provide significant funds to support our vital services. These gifts are making a lasting impact on the lives of those in our community and will continue to do so for future generations.

When you make the generous decision to include Jewish Care in your Will, you will be welcomed into our Circle of Care.

***To receive our Gifts in Wills information pack, please call Elaine Levine on 03 8517 5437 or email [donations@jewishcare.org.au](mailto:donations@jewishcare.org.au) Visit [jewishcare.org.au/gifts-in-wills](http://jewishcare.org.au/gifts-in-wills) to find out more.***





# Meet our Staff

**Annette Sweet**  
– Employment  
Consultant, Social  
Services

## How does your job impact the community we serve?

I guide and encourage my clients to become independent job seekers, supporting them with resume and cover letter writing, skills development, confidence building and networking. This helps them develop a sense of belonging and inclusion in the workforce, as well as financial independence.

As one jobseeker wrote: *"I sincerely thank you for your wonderful help and great advice. I'd still be at the starting gate without your expertise."*

## What is most rewarding about being a part of Jewish Care?

I enjoy working with a supportive and like-minded team, and I am grateful for the opportunity to contribute to the wellbeing of our community.

## What are you most passionate about?

I am deeply passionate about the environment. I love camping, hiking and time in nature, and on my adventures, I have climbed Mt Kilimanjaro, trekked in Nepal, and road-tripped throughout Australia. I am also a keen advocate of women's independence. In my past involvement with Unchain My Heart, I assisted women in obtaining their gett (Jewish divorce), and while working at NCJWA I helped establish the Caring Mums Program to support isolated new mothers.

## How have you been impacted since the events of October 7?

The horrific events of October 7 have made me want to hold my family closer, especially my grandchildren. It has heightened my sense of solidarity and given me cause to reflect on the importance of Jewish survival and resilience, something I have always appreciated as the daughter of immigrants who left their own countries due to antisemitism and the Holocaust.



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ACTIVE LIVING CENTRE

# Social Support Groups

Planned Events, Bus Tours, Excursion Groups,  
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From Monday  
to Friday



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