

Apology for historical adoption practices in Victoria

Jewish Care Victoria acknowledges and apologises for the immense pain, distress, and lifelong trauma caused by the practice of forced adoptions. Through predecessor organisations, now Jewish Care Victoria, there was involvement in adoption services, and whilst it is not always clear whether these adoptions were voluntary or forced, we would like to apologise for policies and practices that led to the separation of children from their families.

We understand that historical adoption practices sometimes forced women and families to give up their children for adoption without consent or proper support. This practice caused untold harm, particularly to mothers who were made to feel they had no other choice, and to children who were removed from their birth families without full or future consideration for their rights or wellbeing.

We offer our heartfelt sympathies to mothers, children, fathers, grandparents, families and their communities who were failed by this system, and who have suffered years of grief and guilt.

We understand that an apology cannot undo the harm done, but we hope it can be the first step in a process of healing, recognition, and accountability.

If you wish to contact Jewish Care Victoria, you can do so confidentially by contacting our Privacy Officer at privacy@jewishcare.org.au

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2025