

# Case in point



This scenario becomes more complex when the question of 'consent' is considered. Presumably, those involved in these residents' ongoing care needs assessments, care planning and care delivery would have seen this relationship evolve and been satisfied that the relationship is based on mutual agreement and the wellbeing of these residents is not being compromised. Nevertheless, the concern of the resident's family member would trigger a review of the situation to determine the most appropriate course of action to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the residents and provide appropriate advice and support to the resident's relative.

As to the residents who are concerned about the overly public nature of this couple's affection, management should consider how this can be managed to achieve the best outcome for all residents. Striking the right balance between the concerns of the complainants and the rights of the affectionate couple will very much depend on the assessment of the situation and the specific details of the case. For example, it may be a

relatively simple matter of providing appropriate spaces and opportunities for the couple to spend time together away from the broader residential community, or it may require some more strategic behavioural management interventions to ensure the safety and comfort of the affectionate couple and the rest of the residential aged care community.

Alzheimer's Australia has recently produced a book that deals with the complexities of dementia and sex in the context of residential aged care. The book *Understanding dementia care and sexuality in residential facilities* explores sexuality, human rights and responsibilities of people with dementia, duty of care issues and family relationships. The book is available for free download on the Alzheimer's Australia website at [www.alzheimers.org.au](http://www.alzheimers.org.au).

Do you have a 'case'? Let us know.  
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## Keeping culture and community alive at Jewish Care

Cultural sensitivity is one of the hallmarks of Jewish Care's Gary Smorgon House, and this feature was on display as residents, staff, family and friends danced and paraded in the streets to celebrate a unique cultural event: The completion of a Torah scroll.

Containing the five books of Moses which are the foundation of Judaism, the Torah scroll is an integral part of Jewish communal observance.



From left to right: Rabbi Sholom Mendle Kluwgant, Mr Joseph Frohlich West, Rabbi Meir Shlomo Kluwgant (General Manager of Cultural and Spiritual Service, Jewish Care).

Because it is handwritten on a scroll of parchment by specially trained scribes, the creation of a Torah scroll entails considerable effort and its completion is traditionally marked with much celebration and fanfare by the entire community.

Generously bestowed upon Gary Smorgon House by Mr Joseph Frohlich West and family in honour of his wife, the late Mrs Helen (Chaya) Frohlich West, the new Torah scroll will play a central role in services conducted in the facility's own synagogue.

Gary Smorgon House is Jewish Care's newest aged care residence, opening in July 2009. Over the Jewish High Holiday period in September, the Gary Smorgon House synagogue was packed with friends, family, neighbours and residents worshipping alongside one another.

"Jewish Care's sensitivity to the unique cultural needs of the Jewish community, together with the highest standards of professionalism, is what sets us apart," said Bill Appleby, CEO of Jewish Care. "It is heart-warming to know that we are enabling members of the Jewish community to continue to participate in their community and in the traditions with which they are so familiar."