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COUNTDOWN TO YOM HASH

Care groups welcome claims breakthrough

PETER KOHN

LOCAL carers have responded positively to the news that the Claims Conference has negotiated historic successive increases in home-care funding for Holocaust survivors.

In its negotiations with the German Government, the Claims Conference, which represents Jewish Holocaust victims' claims for compensation against Germany, obtained a multi-year commitment for home-care funding.

Germany has pledged more than \$173 million for 2012, more than \$180 million for 2013, and \$190 million for 2014. The total for 2012 is a 15 per cent increase on the amount negotiated in 2011.

There was also a breakthrough on increases in pension payments for survivors. As of April 1, monthly payments increased from \$410, for a total yearly annual increase of \$7.5 million in payments.

Additionally, Germany has agreed to treat Article 2 payments to ghetto internees on a case-by-case basis, rather than stipulating

that survivors had to have been incarcerated for at least 18 months to be eligible.

And survivors who had previously been ineligible for Article 2 payments because they had received one-off payments of 35,000 Deutsche Marks from West Germany in the 1950s and 1960s, will now receive these payments.

Jewish Care Victoria with chief executive Bill Appleby said the additional funding will boost the organisation's ability to provide home nursing and support for some 1000 Jewish Holocaust survivors.

JewishCare NSW executive officer Warren Hurst said his organisation welcomes the apparent relaxation of some of the requirements in respect to the length of time in ghettos and current level of assets.

He said JewishCare looks forward to hearing from survivors who have previously been rejected on these grounds.

Enquiries: Magali Kaplan
(03) 8517 5930.