

2025 & Beyond

With our Community
For our Community



October 2025

Our Proud History

Jewish Care and our predecessor organisations have always played a major role in the health and wellbeing of the Jewish Community in Melbourne.

Today, Jewish Care continues to grow and develop to an organisation of more than 1200 staff offering a broad range of uniquely Jewish services to meet the needs of our diverse Jewish Community.

Our Values

Respect - דֶּרֶךְ אֶרֶץ *derech eretz*

We treat everyone with consideration and decency and will always act for the good of society.

Community - קהילה *kehilla*

We work together to strengthen our community, to build and support the capacity and resilience of individuals and families.

Inclusion - הַכְּלָלָה *hachlala* /

Equality - צְדָקָה וְשִׁוְיוֹנִיּוּת *Tzedek V'Shivyoniyut*

We embrace diversity and work together for a just and equitable society.

Social Responsibility - אַחֲרָיוּת חִבְרָתִית -

achrayoot chevratit

We behave ethically, with sensitivity and act in the best interests of all.

Message from Co-Presidents and Chief Executive

“כל ישראל ערבים זה בזה”

Kol Yisrael arevim zeh
bazeh

“All of Israel are
responsible for one
another.” (Talmud)

Jewish Care is committed to empowering and supporting a healthy, strong community where every member of the Jewish community has the opportunity to live their best life.

Importantly we are building upon the long history of Jewish Care through our social welfare, disability and aged care offerings. Across all of life’s stages, we believe in the importance of caring for the whole person, physically, emotionally, and spiritually, while honoring the rich tapestry of Jewish culture and heritage that binds us together. To enable this, Jewish Care is committed to understanding and responding to community needs.

But It's not just about what we do; it's about the how we do it. Our services are rooted in Jewish values, ensuring that our approach is compassionate, empowering, and community driven. We will partner and collaborate with other community organisations and providers as part of a broader system to ensure the best outcomes for our community.

*As we embark on this next chapter and meet the changing needs of the community we serve, we want to ensure you, **we are listening, we say yes, we care.***

Your support and involvement are crucial to our success. Together, we will build a vibrant, resilient community. We look forward to embarking on this next chapter with you and making our shared vision a reality.

Adam, Lisa & Gayle

Our Service Offering

We are here to provide a uniquely Jewish offering for everyone in the Community.

Jewish Care is the **first point of call** for the **Melbourne Jewish Community** for any social welfare, disability or aged care needs and will refer to either our:

- Residential Aged Care Team
- Community Aged Care Team
- Disability Services Team
- Social Services Team
 - Financial Counselling
 - Employment Centre
 - Housing
 - Social Work
 - Youth Mentoring
 - Mental Health services including Social Work & Psychology
- Other organisations



A Shifting Landscape

The external environment in which we live is changing, becoming increasingly complex. Our Community demographics are shifting, so are the needs and expectations of our Community.

Increased demand for mental health services from community members

Ageing Jewish Community

The care system for older Australians is changing

Growing uncertainty around disability services due to NDIS changes

Rising antisemitism has driven more community members to reach out for help

Access to secure and affordable housing is becoming harder for the community

Community members are choosing support options to help them stay at home longer

Increased demand for mental health services from community members

In FY25 1560 people reached out to Jewish Care for support, this is a 21% increase on the year before. Many presentations of anxiety or depression had underlying themes of the impact of antisemitism and an increasingly unsafe world. This puts a strain on our ability to support clients with our current resourcing.

Ageing Jewish Community

Just over a quarter (25.1%) of the Jewish population is aged 65 and over, compared to 16.8% of the total Victorian population. The proportion aged 85 or older (3.8%) is almost double the proportion for Victoria (2.2%). * 2021 Census

The care system for older Australians is changing

The care system for older Australians is undergoing a substantial transformation, embracing a person-centered, flexible approach that emphasises dignity, choice and independence. Key to this shift is the upcoming implementation of the new Aged Care Act 2024

Growing uncertainty around disability services due to NDIS changes

Australia's disability sector is facing growing uncertainty as major NDIS reforms take effect. Changes to eligibility, funding rules, and pricing have sparked fears among participants about losing essential supports. Providers also face mounting financial and regulatory pressures, raising concerns about the sustainability and stability of disability services in the years ahead.

Rising antisemitism has driven more community members to reach out for help

Community members continue to contact Jewish Care about antisemitism. The Social Work team have been receiving an increase in referrals from people who are being doxed, experiencing antisemitism in the workplace and at schools. Others have contacted who are being triggered by real or perceived experiences of antisemitism or discrimination. The financial counselling team have also increased their efforts to support people whose businesses have been negatively impacted by antisemitism.

Access to secure and affordable housing is becoming harder for the community

According to the 2021 Australian Census, approximately 20% of the Jewish population fall into the no or very low-income bracket. The Gen17 Survey of Australian Jewry found that 13% of respondents described their financial situation as "just getting along," "poor," or "very poor." The same study indicated that nearly 1 in 5 Jewish households (18%) had received some form of financial assistance. Rental prices continue to rise faster than wage growth creating a real housing affordability issue for our clients.

Community members are choosing support options to help them stay at home longer

The Governments Support at Home program aims at ensuring Australians are able to live at home longer. This brings a number of challenges to Jewish Care in the form of Residential occupancy levels and the ability to sustainably grow our in-home care services. There is also a challenge for clients in the form of social isolation and loneliness.

Looking Forward

At Jewish Care, our commitment to dignity, care and choice guides us as we serve our diverse Community. In 2025, we face increasing demand and greater regulation, but also new opportunities. To meet the evolving needs of Jewish Victorians, we must be agile and forward-looking, while staying true to our values in an environment of social, political and economic disruption.



We will evolve Jewish Care services across the lifespan, to ensure the health and wellbeing of the Jewish Community.



We will be evidence-based and data-driven. Community feedback will inform how we design and deliver our services.



We will adopt industry best practice technology and digital capabilities to increase speed to service and maintain lower costs.



We will invest in our teams, building Jewish Care as an employer of choice to attract and retain talent .



We're Listening

Your voices will shape our direction.

We invite you to share in the Future of Jewish Care.

Together, we will build a stronger, more connected community.

***Please reach out via yoursay@jewishcare.org.au or
<https://www.jewishcare.org.au/your-say>***

