

# MY Connection

Issue 2 Spring 2019/ Elul 5779



Investing in  
Our Community



Mike Debinski, President



Bill Appleby, CEO

As the New Year approaches, we reflect on some of this year's achievements and initiatives focused on providing improved services and care to our community.

We continue to closely follow the progress and findings of the Royal Commission into Aged Care, and welcome the opportunity to provide our expertise where appropriate to strengthen aged care services. Equally important are the two royal commissions into Mental Health and Disability, and we anticipate these reviews will serve to improve quality outcomes for the people we support.

It was a pleasure to host Greg Schneider, the Executive Vice-President and CEO of The Claims Conference, during his first visit to Australia. Australia is the second-largest Holocaust survivor community per capita in the world, and his visit was significant in enabling us to share insights on both our community and the range of vital services offered to over 1,200 Holocaust survivors.

Meanwhile, the fruits of donor support continue to grow, with excellent progress made on our new developments. The Hannah & Daryl Cohen Family Building has reached its full height and extensive internal works have commenced. The teams at The Anne & Eric Smorgon Active Living Centre and Carnegie Senior Living Community construction sites have started installing precast concrete panels and are progressing towards their scheduled openings in 2020.

Thanks to the outstanding generosity of our community, we have been able to achieve great successes in fundraising. The major capital gift of \$5 million from Charles Holckner OAM and family and the \$3.2 million raised in the Annual Appeal will enable us to continue our work uplifting the lives of many vulnerable people. The Capital Campaign has now exceeded \$30 million in capital donations, making it the largest fundraising drive in our 170-year history.

Our 2019 Rosh Hashana Appeal is underway and we rely on your donations to respond to the diverse needs of the community. All money raised will go towards vital social justice programs that receive very little or no funding from the government. So please give generously. Your gift, no matter the size, helps to enrich more lives!

Wishing you and your loved ones a Shana Tova!

Mike Debinski

Bill Appleby

*I want to express my gratitude to Jewish Care for sending me such a wonderful carer. She has been working with me for almost two years. During this time, she has made me really happy.*

*She is very accurate, skilful, clever, polite, honest, and prepares delicious food. When we go shopping together it is simply a pleasure. Whatever she does, she does it with great skill, love and understanding. I wish her all the best and hope she continues to bring elderly people more pleasure and make their lives easier.*

**~ Galina Geller**

*I just wanted to say thank you and how much I have enjoyed all the parenting presentations. I have been to several of them over the years and have found the topics to be excellent and highly relevant and the presenters were of an exceptionally high standard. In addition, they are extremely well organised.*

*As a Mental Health Social Worker, I attend many professional development sessions and have found this series to be the best. I look forward to attending many more and hope they continue.*

**~ Anonymous**



**Share your feedback about our services by emailing [yoursay@jewishcare.org.au](mailto:yoursay@jewishcare.org.au)**

## Annual General Meeting



**DATE:** 14 November 2019  
**PLACE:** Monash University  
 Caulfield Campus  
**TIME:** 6:00pm to 8:00pm

### Front cover:

*Pictured from left: Susie Ivany OAM, Jeffrey Appel OAM, Charles Holckner OAM and Bill Appleby. See story on page 4.*





# 2019 Annual Appeal Tops \$3.2 Million

The 2019 Annual Appeal successfully raised \$3.2 million thanks to the generosity of our community.

The success of the 2019 appeal follows on from another record-breaking year in 2018. This is a testament to the Jewish community's generosity.

Fundraising priorities emphasised the vital social justice programs that receive little or no government funding including housing, financial aid, employment and disability services.

Jewish Care CEO Bill Appleby said, "This is truly something to celebrate because this outcome confirms the faith our community has in us. We are privileged to witness first-hand the difference we make with your support".

This year's annual appeal was a culmination of various activities including direct mail, newsletters, major donor dinners, the Super Tzedakah Sunday Telethon, an annual appeal dinner and a social media campaign.

Celebrating support, commitment and achievement, the Annual Appeal Dinner was enjoyed by 350 guests, comprising donors, partners, volunteers and staff. It was a night of heartfelt personal stories and musical entertainment.

Highlights of the evening included inspirational speeches by Dr Dorothy Kovacs and Rohan Appel. They both reiterated the importance of Jewish Care to the community and why making a gift matters. Dr Dorothy Kovacs said, "Just take a brief moment to think about those acts of kindness and giving that you can do that may positively affect and change someone's life. They might seem small and insignificant to you, but to the other person it could mean a world of difference."

Former participant in Jewish Care's Yesod Board Foundations program, Rohan Appel's passionate address encouraged guests to consider the importance Jewish Care plays in building and maintaining a strong and healthy community. "Our challenge tonight is to give the very best we can, because, by doing so, we will be building something so very special - the community we want; the community we expect."

Entertainment for the evening included a performance by the talented 17-year-old, Amira Susskind, and an ensemble of Jewish Care staff, volunteers and clients joining on stage for a special drumming performance of 'We Will Rock You'.

## Help us to Help Others this New Year

For most, Rosh Hashana is a happy and special time of year, celebrated with family. Sadly, this is not the case for everyone. There are many in our community who are struggling to make ends meet. Their safe haven is Jewish Care, a place where they can access services that will provide much needed relief and support.

Our programs help in various ways, from reintegrating people back into a supportive community to making people self-sufficient and independent. These outcomes wouldn't have been possible if not for the supportive and generous Jewish community.

Thank you for keeping Jewish Care and the people we serve in your mind and in your hearts, especially during Rosh Hashana.

Please give generously this New Year. We rely on your continued support!



To make a donation, visit [jewishcare.org.au/2019RH](http://jewishcare.org.au/2019RH), call 1800 539 474 or complete the coupon on the back page.



Amira Susskind performing with staff, clients, and volunteers at the Annual Appeal Dinner



Life Governor, Andrew Blode as the event MC

# Investing in Our Future

Jewish Care's ambitious plan to transform infrastructure by investing more than \$200 million in six projects is coming to fruition, with three more developments scheduled to be opened in 2020.

The Holckner family pledge of \$5 million made in June this year has given impetus to accelerating this plan. In recognition of their extraordinary gift, the St Kilda Road site will be known as The Holckner Family Senior Living & Community Precinct.

When asked about his family's motivation to give such a significant gift to Jewish Care, Charles Holckner OAM explained that his family's story is like so many others. "My family arrived on these shores with nothing. Our success is due to many factors. But now that we have the means, I hope this gift will serve as a benchmark for future generations to follow."

In 2017, Charles Holckner was awarded an OAM in recognition of his philanthropic and community support. The family owned business Encore Tissue was established by Charles and his two sons, David and Mark, in 1998 and is a leading manufacturer of toilet tissue and kitchen towel in Australia today.

Construction on the largest of the six projects, The Hannah & Daryl Cohen Family Building is due for completion in early 2020. Located within The Holckner Family Senior Living & Community Precinct, the nine-storey building has now reached its full height, with internal tiling, basement kitchen, and bathroom installation currently underway, along with work on the façade.



*From left to right: Mark Holckner, Helen Landau, Charles Holckner OAM (seated) Anne Melinger and David Holckner in front of a portrait of Charles and the late Lily Holckner*



The second project currently underway is The Anne & Eric Smorgon Active Living Centre.

Linked by a walkway to Gary Smorgon House, this new facility will provide a range of therapeutic and allied health services to support the healthy ageing of Elders at Gary Smorgon House, and those living independently in the community. A beautiful new shule, training and outreach programs, social and recreational activities, and consulting rooms are additional features, creating a vibrant hub for the community.

As part of this development, the entrance to Gary Smorgon House and level two community spaces including the café will be refurbished. The state-of-the-art Centre is due for completion in early 2020.



*The Jack and Robert Smorgon family and members of Jewish Care's Board at The Anne & Eric Smorgon Active Living Centre ground-breaking event*



*Artist impression: Upstairs foyer*

The \$39 million Carnegie Senior Living Precinct commenced construction in March and is due for completion in August 2020. The double-storey home will include family friendly senior living, a contemporary shule, secure landscaped gardens, and provide bespoke aged care services to 120 members of the Jewish community living in the South East suburbs.



*The Coppel & Piekarski Family Disability Respite Centre in Caulfield was opened in 2016*

Other projects in the **Growing. For our Community.** Capital Campaign include The Coppel & Piekarski Family Disability Respite Centre and refurbishment of Community Housing in Fulton Street, which were completed in 2016 and 2018, respectively. Jewish Care CEO Bill Appleby said, "It gives me so



*Living room of a refurbished unit at Fulton Street*

much joy to watch our vision of transformation coming to fruition.

"These projects will ensure that Jewish Care will be here to provide vital services to the Victorian Jewish community for generations to come."



# Building Confidence in Young People

Our Young Achievers Program focuses on encouraging, supporting and guiding young people aged 14-19 to achieve their goals, learn about themselves and develop new perspectives by engaging with mentors.

In addition to the mentor relationship, participants of the Young Achievers Program also attend a diverse range of activities and educational workshops throughout the year.

In April, 26 young people attended a three-day camp in Blairgowrie to take part in activities, including kayaking, snorkelling and team building exercises. The camp experience provided a space to meet and engage with others with similar values and goals, and build friendships and connections within the Jewish community.

The camp has historically been integral to building group connections and enhancing interpersonal skills, and this year proved no different.

Teegan Casselson said, *"Camp was an incredible experience. I got to make new friends, experience new challenges, learn memorable things and have lots of fun all at the same time. I especially loved snorkelling and engaging with new people who*



*Young achievers at Blairgowrie, ready to go kayaking*

*are now great friends of mine!"*

Sixteen young people attended another unique workshop organised by Kids in Philanthropy. As part of the program, they were tasked with making blankets and toys for homeless people and involved in a discussion around homelessness.



Please contact Eliza Arnold at [earnold@jewishcare.org.au](mailto:earnold@jewishcare.org.au) or 8517 5999 to enquire about applications for 2020.

## Empower Interest Free Loans Grows

Jewish Care's Empower Interest Free Loans is the perfect tool to help advance the lives of individuals and families who have difficulty accessing affordable finance.

With our intervention, we were able to help individuals start businesses, help learn a trade or upskill, assist families with their first home and consolidate high interest credit card debt, all in support of improving their quality of life.



For more information about our Empower Interest Free Loans, talk to us on 8517 5999 or email at [dabramovici@jewishcare.org.au](mailto:dabramovici@jewishcare.org.au)

**THIS YEAR, WE:**

**Loaned \$1.626m**

**Supported 22 start-up Businesses**

**Provided 18 Debt Consolidation Loans**

**Provided 17 Jewish Identity Loans**

## Parenting Forums Sell Out!

Our Parenting Forums delivered by expert guest speakers continue to be a sell-out with more people attending from grandparents and carers to health professionals. The forums are focused on a range of topics related to the health and wellbeing of young people, and are aimed at achieving positive outcomes for families by supporting parents to develop key parenting skills.

Now in its fifth year, the forums have become both informative and effective in educating parents on how to manage common parenting pressures.



To receive information about future forums, register your details with [cbarrett@jewishcare.org.au](mailto:cbarrett@jewishcare.org.au)




*The audience attentively listening to the speaker from The Man Cave*

# Love Should Be Sweet

A new poster campaign was launched in August to promote awareness of family violence.

Themed, 'Love Should Be Sweet', a series of three attractive and impactful posters highlight some of the common yet subtle red flags that can occur within relationships to show that violence and abuse is anything but romantic. These posters were distributed to shops, schools, councils and shuls across the community.

The campaign was developed with input from victim-survivors, and was launched to coincide with Tu B'Av, often referred to as the Jewish 'holiday of love'.

 To order free posters for your organisation, contact [cbarrett@jewishcare.org.au](mailto:cbarrett@jewishcare.org.au) or call 8517 5999.



## Greg Visits Jewish Care

Jewish Care hosted Greg Schneider, Executive Vice-President and CEO of The Claims Conference during his first visit to Melbourne in August.

Schneider met with other communal organisations and Holocaust survivors to gain a first-hand experience on matters concerning Holocaust survivors living in the Jewish community in Victoria.

Schneider was also able to attend briefings with Jewish Care's Board, Executive and senior leaders working in Active Living Services, and visit partner agencies, including NCJWA Victorian Branch, C Care and The Jewish Holocaust Centre.

Bill Appleby, CEO of Jewish Care said, "I was delighted to spend time with Greg Schneider, visiting Holocaust survivors and explaining the supports and services Jewish Care and other communal organisations provides to approximately 1,200 survivors in Victoria. Mr. Schneider is well aware of the significance of the role played by Jewish Care in assisting the second-largest survivor community per capita in the world."

Schneider's visit follows on from a recent engagement Bill Appleby and President Mike Debinski had with him in Atlanta, when they attended the Claims Conference gathering and the Conference of the Network of Jewish Human Services Agencies. They were also able to visit two Jewish Home Life facilities and a privately-operated aged care facility in Georgia to explore their service models.



*Greg Schneider (fourth from left) with some Board members during his recent visit to Jewish Care*

## Grants to Boost Employment

Unemployment is the single most significant factor influencing financial distress and wellbeing. Two generous foundations have taken the lead to help address unemployment by allocating grants to Jewish Care's Employment Centre.

Grants from the Eva and Les Erdi Humanitarian Charitable Foundation and the Spotlight Foundation will enable Jewish Care to continue in their efforts to improve the livelihoods of an estimated 2500 unemployed people in the Jewish community. Amongst those are people living with disability or mental illness, new migrants, young people and mature adults, single parents and people from the ultra-orthodox community.

In the last 12 months, Jewish Care's Employment Centre has supported over 284 jobseekers with services such as directional career counselling, pre-accredited training, job search skill development, employer introduction and post-placement support. Moreover, a total of 170 people were assisted to secure employment, including 145 with identified disadvantage.







**Some staff and Elders who have been at GSH since 2009**

## Gary Smorgon House Celebrates 10 Years!

On 29 June, Gary Smorgon House celebrated 10 years of service to the Jewish community with Elders, families, shule members and staff gathering for a special Shabbat Kiddush.

Since its opening in 2009, Gary Smorgon House has remained a heimish, supportive and culturally sensitive home for Elders wanting to live a comfortable and connected life. Whether it is a Bar Mitzvah, Shabbat, or a Kiddush on a Jewish holiday, Elders are able to continue their lifestyles and be part of the community.

At the heart of the house is the shule, providing a spiritual centre for Elders and their families where cultural and traditional beliefs are lived. Gary Smorgon House is also a diverse workplace and an engaging environment for volunteers, who are able to strengthen the bonds Elders have with the community through their work.

One of the regular visitors to Gary Smorgon House said, "It is a special place where people from all backgrounds come together. Religious and not so religious; young and old; traditional and secular; light-hearted and serious; Holocaust survivors and their children. We from the community share our lives and thoughts with Elders in return for their wisdom, stories and life lessons. We gain and grow so much when we help them feel that they still belong."

## Friends Gather For Wellness

Over 300 guests attended the 36th Annual Friends of Montefiore Lunch to raise \$80,000 towards the new Wellness Centre to be built as part of The Anne & Eric Smorgon Active Living Centre.

Guest speaker, Kirsty Manning, a journalist and author of *The Jade Lily*, discussed the power of fiction in helping to shape the ideas of readers, positing that fiction encourages the audience to tackle tough questions posed in today's society. Kirsty was introduced to the audience by Sam Moshinsky. Sam's life experience during WWII in Shanghai was called on by Kirsty to provide the factual information for her novel.

Our special thanks go to the Pratt Foundation for sponsoring the luncheon, Friends of Montefiore Committee for organising yet another successful event, and our speakers – Kirsty and Sam – for making this event informative and enjoyable.



**Kirsty Manning and Delysia Pahoff OAM, Chairperson of the Friends of Montefiore Committee**



**Jewish Care Life Governors Val Smorgon OBE, Paula Hansky OAM and Liz Nissen**



**Hayley Southwick, Hillary Cohen and Melissa Davis**



# Speed Networking for Young Leaders

A unique opportunity was presented to young leaders and professionals of 11 Jewish community organisations to connect with like-minded people at Jewish Care's first Speed Networking event.

The event, organised in two stages, allowed participating organisations to make a five-minute presentation to Yesod members, and then to be approached by Yesod members to discuss potential opportunities.

The Yesod Board Foundation Program was launched in 2016 to develop capacity and confidence in young people to contribute



**Rene Spungin, Events Manager, Australian Friends of Tel Aviv University and Vanessa Cohen**



**Renata Singer and Shana Reuben**

at a governance level. So far, it has developed 47 job ready, non-executive directors with some already taking up Board positions at community organisations including Jewish Care.

The Yesod Program is proudly sponsored by Simone Szalmuk-Singer and Simon T Morris and families.



**To enquire about the 2020 Yesod program, email [mmcnamara@jewishcare.org.au](mailto:mmcnamara@jewishcare.org.au)**

## Going to the Movies

Jewish Care organised two exclusive screenings of 'Itzhak' and 'POMS' for its valued Circle of Care members and volunteers to recognise their commitment and support of Jewish Care.

Both movies were well received by over 550 supporters who attended the free screenings.



**Judy Shapiro and Maxima Fogelgarn at the Itzhak screening**

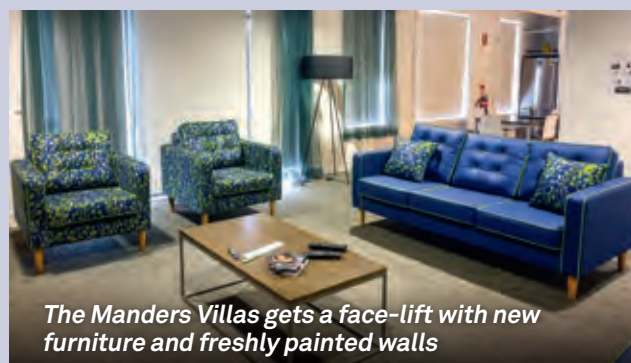


**Nicky Auster-Gafni and Aviv Gafni at the POMS screening**

## Dolling up the Villas

Our Property and Tenancy team have been busy rejuvenating The Manders Villas by tidying the gardens, repainting the communal hub and replacing some old and tired furniture.

Tenants have given their thumbs-up for the new furnishings, which they assisted in selecting.



**The Manders Villas gets a face-lift with new furniture and freshly painted walls**

## Lillian's Gift to Further Good Work

Lillian Tarry is passionate about serving her community and has been a generous supporter of Jewish Care for many years.

Having worked as a full time professional, Lillian takes pride in her former careers as a Management Consultant and later, as a Lecturer at many of Melbourne's top universities.

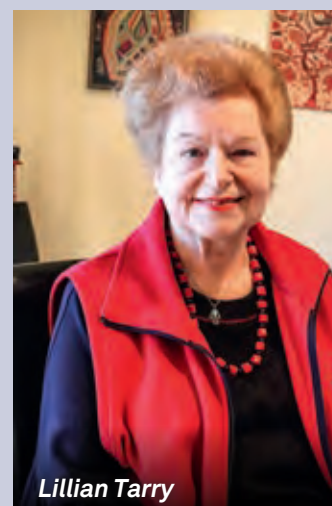
She values the many people she has met along her journey and the opportunities she has had to live a purposeful life empowering others.

Lillian has a high regard for Jewish Care's commitment to enhancing community wellbeing. She views her decision to bequest to Jewish Care as a way of perpetuating the good work so that others may benefit.

Says Lillian, "Leaving a gift was always something I wanted to do, and including Jewish Care in my will was a natural extension of the support I have been giving over the years."



**For information about Gifts in Wills, email [fcyllich@jewishcare.org.au](mailto:fcyllich@jewishcare.org.au) or call 8517 5602.**



**Lillian Tarry**



Edith Preston



Bradley Shostak



Roslyn Roseman



Sari Rosengarten

## Sharing their Simcha

We are extremely grateful to the following supporters for requesting donations to Jewish Care in lieu of gifts to mark their special occasions:

### Birth

Elijah Henri Ciddor

### Bat Mitzvah

Grace Brott  
Sari Rosengarten  
Sascha Sable

### Bar Mitzvah

Nicholas Baring  
Joshua Davies  
Hillel Ringelblum  
Bradley Shostak  
Jesse Wrobel

### 40th Birthday

Ben Simon

### 50th Birthday

Daniel Jenshel  
Graeme Miller

### 70th Birthday

Judy Dodge  
Arie Freiberg  
Ian Swart

### 80th Birthday

Myra Katz  
Roslyn Roseman  
Naomi Serry

### 85th Birthday

Helen Granek

### 90th Birthday

Norma Beaconsfield  
Madeleine Carrier (z'l)  
Henry Miller  
Edith Preston  
Reg Rosen  
Edith Unger

### Birthday

Fay Landau



To share your simcha, please contact our Community Team on 8517 5786 or [donations@jewishcare.org.au](mailto:donations@jewishcare.org.au)

“ I hope my children and grandchildren will continue our tradition of giving and helping people in need. ”  
Inge Ruben, Bequestor



Ensure a lasting legacy. Include a gift in your will to Jewish Care.

Please contact Feygl Cylich (03) 8517 5602  
[fcylich@jewishcare.org.au](mailto:fcylich@jewishcare.org.au)



B'NEI MITZVAH  
בני מצוה

DOUBLE  
YOUR  
IMPACT

Give to Jewish Care on the occasion of your Bar or Bat mitzvah and your donation will be matched dollar for dollar by the Pratt Foundation.



Your donation will support Jewish Care's social justice programs, which do not attract government funding.



# Photo Gallery



**Volunteers Peter and Ruth Martin at the Volunteer movie screening**



**Volunteers Deanna Levin and Marlene Dryen at the POMS screening**



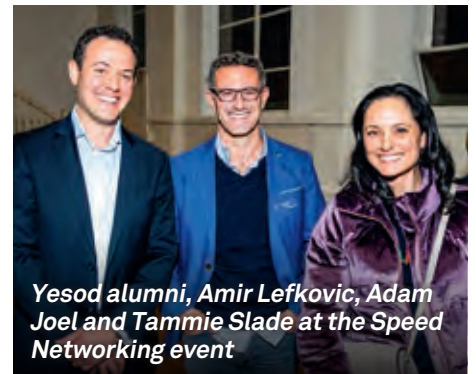
**Elder Adele Justin and volunteer Marilyn Faiman at the GSH 10 year anniversary event**



**YAP participants Alyssa Felbel and Gila Bloch at the Kids in Philanthropy workshop**



**Jess Frid, Anna Serry and Dahlia Sable at the 2019 Annual Appeal dinner**



**Yesod alumni, Amir Lefkovic, Adam Joel and Tammie Slade at the Speed Networking event**



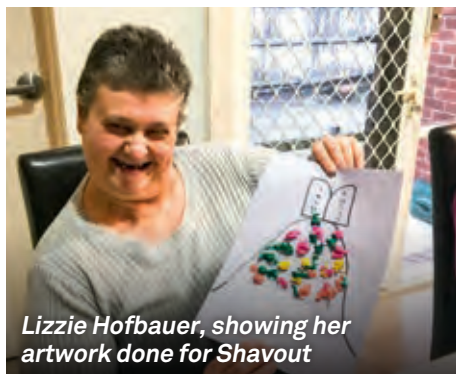
**GSH Elder Joseph West and his friend Tim Hain at the Tisha B'Av service**



**Shirley Rutman and Vivienne Fried at Friends of Montefiore lunch**



**Rosie Lew (right) with her guests Rachel Goldberg and Simon Kessel at the Major Donor cocktail event**



**Lizzie Hofbauer, showing her artwork done for Shavout**



**GSH Elder Eva Suss celebrating her 100th birthday with family**



**YAP participant Joseph Zeleznikow and mentor Alex Kats**



Like us on Facebook to see more photos of events and activities around Jewish Care – [facebook.com/jewishcarevictoria](https://facebook.com/jewishcarevictoria)

# 170 Years of Our History and its People

As part of Jewish Care's 170 Year Anniversary (1848 – 2018), a new hard cover pictorial book of exquisite black and white portraits will be launched at the Annual General Meeting on 14 November.

Titled '170 Years – Enriching lives of the Jewish community', the book profiles a group of inspiring and captivating individuals and families who have been associated with, or supported by, Jewish Care and its predecessor organisations.

A public call for nominations was conducted and an initial list of approximately 200 people was compiled. The project team selected the final 68 individuals and families - alive and deceased – who personify the values, spirit, character and soul of the thousands of people who have helped to make Jewish Care what it is today. Those represented include staff, clients, elders, volunteers and donors.

Taking two years to research, write and edit, Ayal Tusia, Marketing and Communications Manager said, "It was an honour to have had the opportunity to meet so many inspirational people, to hear their stories of involvement and learn of their selfless efforts in helping to shape the growth and wellbeing of the Victorian Jewish community."

The book's striking full-page portraits have been beautifully captured by photographer Woodrow Wilson and elegantly complemented by the design skills of Maxime Tarbouriech.

The book will be made available for purchase on the Jewish Care website after its launch in November.



\*Artist's impression of cover page

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Please direct any feedback regarding *My Connection* to [marketing@jewishcare.org.au](mailto:marketing@jewishcare.org.au)



Yes, I want to give somebody a sweet New Year

## Please fill in your payment details

☐ Please find my cheque enclosed (made payable to Jewish Care)

**OR** Please debit my

☐ Visa

☐ MasterCard

☐ Amex

Card Number

Expiry Date

Signature

Name on Card

Mobile

DOB

Email

So that more of my dollar can go to those in need, I am happy to cover the Credit Card surcharge (optional)

☐ Amex 1.5% ☐ Visa/MasterCard 1%

☐ Yes, I would like to make monthly donations to Jewish Care. I authorise my credit card to be debited

\$\_\_\_\_\_ per month (minimum \$10)

☐ I am considering including Jewish Care in my Will. ☐ I have already included Jewish Care in my Will.



Donate by: [jewishcare.org.au/donate](http://jewishcare.org.au/donate)

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