

**MINUTES OF THE PLENUM OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF VICTORIA INC
BETH WEIZMANN COMMUNITY CENTRE
8.30PM, 05 OCTOBER 2009**

Members in attendance	There were 51 members of the Executive, Delegates and Deputy Delegates representing 27 Affiliates.
AGENDA ITEM	DECISION/DISCUSSION/ACTION
1 Adoption of Minutes of plenum meeting held on 3 August 2009	John Searle first welcomed delegates and wished them Chag Sameach. Moved Stefan Oberman Seconded John Furstenberg Passed
2 Matters Arising	
3 Correspondence	
4 President's Report	<p>The report was circulated prior to the meeting.</p> <p>JEMP: John Searle noted that it was significant that a MOU had been signed with the Red Cross re JEMP personnel assisting in cases of emergency. This indicated that JEMP was held in high regard and it would enable their volunteers to use their skills to benefit the larger Victorian community.</p> <p>Get-together with Buddhists: John Searle advised that the JCCV's meeting with senior office-bearers from the Buddhist community had been a great success and demonstrated the value of the JCCV's interfaith strategy.</p> <p>Youth alcohol concerns: John Searle advised delegates that a notice would be run in the forthcoming Australian Jewish News warning against dangerous drinking on Simchat Torah. In addition, there would be an advertisement seeking a part-time project officer to develop a community education campaign. The JCCV had received a grant that would fund this position.</p> <p>GLBT Jews: John Searle advised that vilification of any member of the Jewish and larger community for any reason was unacceptable. He had made this clear in public pronouncements and would continue to do so.</p> <p>MCK: John Searle advised that he had spoken again to MCK president Myer Herzberg re the condition of Tahara Houses at certain cemeteries and in regard to progress at Lyndhurst. Mr Herzberg had assured him that improvements at Lyndhurst would occur. John Searle had requested this commitment in</p>

	<p>writing but this had not yet been received. Ian Samuel advised members that he had spoken to Ephraim Finch about the Tahara Houses and the latter had advised that action would be taken.</p> <p>Council for Jewish Education in Schools: John Searle advised that the JCCV would take over its administration as soon as it was brought up to date and would likely hire a part-time officer to run it. Michael Neuhauser asked where funding would come from for this person. John Searle replied that the JCCV would examine the fees CJES users currently paid to see if they could be increased. Mr Neuhauser also asked if there had been any response to complaints by the ECAJ and ZCV in regard to a Sixty Minutes episode on Israel's settlement policy. Mr Searle replied that the ECAJ had not received a response, and Danny Lamm said that neither had the ZCV.</p> <p>Leadership Course: John Searle advised that units had been successfully run in fund-raising and project management. A governance course would be offered next, likely in November, and he suggested that all presidents and executive directors of communal organisations attend. David Brous stated that the focus should be on organisations incorporated under the Associations Incorporation Act as bodies such as Jewish Care had stringent requirements and their Board members were aware of their obligations. Susie Ivany observed that different organisations had different needs and also that the course cost would be an issue for some. Peter Eben responded that the course will be as broad as possible. As for the cost, the JCCV could subsidise those in need, keeping the cost down to \$200.</p>
<p>5 Treasurer's Report</p>	<p>Mory Kalkopf presented his report to the meeting, noting that finances were in a healthy situation. Both reports: Moved Sam Salcman Seconded Gertie Rothschild Passed</p>
<p>6 General Business</p>	<p>JCCV Appeals Calendar rules: John Searle noted that the JCCV sought to systematise communal appeals via this calendar, and the rules governing it had been amended by the member organisations to the calendar. This now required ratification by the plenum. John Fursternberg stated that some organisations were disadvantaged in their fundraising by the calendar. John Searle replied that this would be overcome by them subscribing to the calendar process.</p>

Vivian Brass observed that all organisations needed to put their events into the JCCV functions calendar as well.

Moved John Searle

Seconded Ian Samuel

Passed

JCCV mental health policy: Both Dr Nicky Jacobs and Lorraine Levy had proposed amendments to paragraph 3.22 of the JCCV's policy platform which concerned mental health. The JCCV had also circulated a compromise position. (See Attachment A for all amendments). Following discussion it was decided to put the JCCV's proposed amendments to the vote.

Moved John Searle

Seconded Rimma Sverdlin

Passed

Geoffrey Zygiel to amend policy accordingly.

Vilification: Harold Zwier asked that the plenum debate a proposal affirming the importance of debate and diversity in the Jewish community rejecting abuse, vilification and threatening behaviour as having any part to play in the conduct of our debates and discussions. (See Attachment B). John Searle acknowledged the importance of this proposal. He noted that it had only been received a few hours earlier, however, and hence delegates had not had an opportunity to consider it. He proposed that discussion therefore be held over until the next meeting. He also suggested that Mr Zwier and he discuss it beforehand

Moved Ian Samuel

Seconded David Brous

Passed

Dr Marek Edelman: Sam Salcman asked that a minute's silence be observed to note the passing on 2 October 2009 of Dr Edelman, hitherto the last surviving leader of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising.

All were upstanding and a minute's silence was observed.

Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria: Simon Tisher informed delegates that a history of the ECCV had been launched, that it was an interesting book and that it acknowledged the seminal role of the late Walter Lippmann.

Hamas Debate: John Searle urged delegates to attend a debate on whether Israel should negotiate with Hamas at Monash University on 13 October 2009.

	JCCV Volunteers Awards Night: John Searle encouraged delegates to remind their organisations that members should attend this event at Monash University at 7.30pm, 9 November 2009.
7. Next Meeting	AGM 8:00pm, 23 November 2009, Beth Weizmann

ATTACHMENT A

JCCV MENTAL HEALTH POLICY

1 Wings of Care proposed amendments

This Council:

Recognises that there are members of the Victorian Jewish Community with mental health needs.

Recognises that there is a need to educate the community about mental health issues and thereby reducing the incidence of stigma and discrimination.

Recognises that there is a need to educate our community about mental health issues thereby improving the general mental health of members of our community also increasing the possibility of identifying early detection of mental illness particularly in the younger members of our community.

Supports those voluntary and non-professional affiliates, such as carers and peer supporters who work to meet the needs of the community, within a Jewish ethos.

Supports those affiliates who have the appropriate professional qualifications and expertise who work to meet the needs of the community, within a Jewish ethos.

Supports organisations that work to meet the needs of members of the community who have mental health needs

Recognises that there is a connection between mental illness and poverty and that this manifests itself and is prevalent in our community

Recognises that there is a need for a support program that addresses mental health and poverty issues in our community.

2 AJPS proposed amendments

JCCV recognises that there are members of the Victorian Jewish Community with mental health issues which require different levels of response.

JCCV supports those affiliates with professional qualifications [recognised under the Health Professionals Registration Act, 2005, Victoria] who provide specialist services and expertise [assessment/diagnosis/treatment; community education and referrals] to those in the community with and/or affected by, mental health issues, within a Jewish ethos.

JCCV recognises Rabbis and others who provide pastoral care to the community

JCCV acknowledges the important voluntary contribution of non professional affiliates.

3 JCCV's suggested policy

3.22 Mental Health

This Council:

3.22.1 RECOGNISES that there are members of the Victorian Jewish Community with mental health issues which require different types and levels of response.

3.22.2 RECOGNISES the need to destigmatise these members of our community

3.22.3 SUPPORTS those affiliates whose members possess professional qualifications (recognised under the Health Professionals Registration Act, 2005, Victoria) who provide specialist services and expertise within a Jewish ethos (assessment/diagnosis/treatment; community education and referrals) to those in the community with and/or affected by, mental health issues.

3.22.4 SUPPORTS those affiliates whose members while not professionally qualified in this field provide support services within a Jewish ethos to those in the community with and/or affected by, mental health issues.

ATTACHMENT B

Moved by the Australian Jewish Democratic Society
Seconded by the Bund

Recognising,

. that the Jewish community is diverse and pluralistic,

. that public debate of ideas and issues that affect our community are both an expression of the vibrancy of our community and a vital part of finding paths to a better future,

- . that articulating views passionately is a part of this process,
- . that our public debates are conducted through a variety of media not all within the Jewish community,
- . that not all issues affecting the Jewish community are discussed exclusively by Jews,
- . that there are no issues on which there is a unanimity of views.

This plenum calls on the executive of the JCCV to draft, circulate and publicise a statement:

1. affirming the importance of public debate on issues affecting the Jewish community.
2. affirming the importance of public debate reflecting the diversity of views in the Jewish community.
3. rejecting abuse, vilification and threatening behaviour as having any part to play in the conduct of our debates and discussions.