

## Chairman

**John Searle** (CHAIRMAN of the Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission)  
An ex president of the JCCV (2008 – 2011) when the JCCV's GLBT Reference Group report was published, he has previously been involved in community affairs in a range of capacities, including as chair of the B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation Commission.



## Speakers

### **Doron Abramovici**

Born in Melbourne to two very loving and supportive parents, he is a dedicated corporate banker whom recently attained long-service status. He has a strong interest in finance, domestic politics and global issues particular those relating to the economy and Israel. Doron enjoyed working on reference groups as part of the Jewish Community Council of Victoria, the peak body for Jewish community organisations and is a proud member of the Australia-Israel Chamber of Commerce.



### **Roz Ward** (co-founder of Safe School Coalition Victoria)

A researcher at La Trobe University where she directs youth programs at Gay and Lesbian Health Victoria. These include Rainbow Network Victoria, Safe Schools Coalition Victoria, and the Webwise Cybersafety Project. Roz completed an MA in Gender Studies at Sussex University (UK) and has worked for over 10 years in youth participation, social inclusion, community development, and research into practice. Roz currently designs and delivers the resources and professional development sessions for Safe Schools Coalition Victoria.



### **Jonathan Barnett** (Keshet Australia President)

A former professor of fire safety engineering who permanently moved to Australia in 2010 from the United States. In the US he volunteered as the Treasurer of Keshet USA, was a former president of his synagogue, the campaign chair of the Jewish Federation of Central Massachusetts and the Technical Director for the Friends of Israel Fire Fighters where he helped raise the funding for over 80 fire trucks for Israel. In his secular life, Jonathan is the Technical Director of Fire and Life Safety for AECOM Australia/NZ.



## The Need for Educating our Jewish community on GLBTI issue

**FREE Admission**

**Keshet AUSTRALIA** presents

**“THE NEED FOR EDUCATING OUR JEWISH COMMUNITY ON GLBTI ISSUES”**

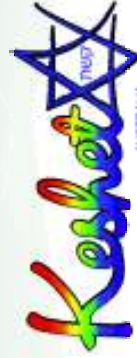
*Gay • Lesbian • Bisexual • Transgender • Intersex*

John Searle - Moderator  
Doron Abramovici - Co Author of GLBTI report for JCCV  
Roz Ward - Safe Schools Coalition Australia  
Jonathan Barnett - President Keshet Australia

**SUNDAY AUGUST 5TH AT 7PM**  
**LAMM JEWISH LIBRARY OF AUSTRALIA**  
**304 HAWTHORN ROAD CAULFIELD**

Email: [president@keshet.org.au](mailto:president@keshet.org.au) Phone: 0467 508 868

Working together for GLBTI Jews”  
-Keshet Australia



# Keshet Overview

## The crisis we're facing

Too many GLBTI (gay, lesbian, bisexual, transsexual and intersex) Jews are leaving Judaism, because they feel alienated by their Jewish community, family and friends.

GLBTI Jewish children are in our schools, our synagogues, our summer camps, our Zionist programs, in our homes; they are all around us. They are part of our community and too many are suffering from depression and/or anxiety and feel disconnected.

## Our Goal

Keshet Australia's primary goal is to help nurture, protect and provide a safe environment for GLBTI Jews, both children and adults. We need to do this to keep families together. We need to do this to keep our GLBTI Jewish friends within Judaism (no matter what their affiliation) and not to drive them away.

We need to keep Jews, Jewish.



Keshet Australia will enable GLBTI Jews speak with a united voice, to build an ever wider understanding of their needs and attitudes, as well exploring the inevitable challenges of an ever-changing world.

-Keshet Australia mission statement

Keshet Australia promotes lifelong inclusivity primarily through education, for (GLBTI) Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex Jews within the Jewish community.



## Keshet Parents

If you have a child who is gay, lesbian, transgender, intersex or questioning their sexual orientation and if you would like to talk with other parents of GLBTI children, then Keshet parents welcome you into our community.

Our main goal is to provide a safe place to discuss some of the particular issues that we as Jewish parents often encounter upon the discovery of our child's sexual orientation.

Our first meeting took place in July and in a relaxed and confidential environment, parents felt free to express their hopes, dreams and concerns for their children. We represent all spectrums of the community and although we have different stories, it was wonderful to be able to share and connect.

Parents affirmed the importance of addressing some of their questions within a Jewish context, especially because in our Jewish world, *naches* is generally associated with heterosexual relationships, marriage and grandchildren. Recognizing that we live in a world that is increasingly moving towards a legal recognition of same-sex

relationships and alternative family structures, many Jewish parents nevertheless continue to feel anxious for their children and themselves. We welcome parents who feel that they need support and we also welcome parents who would like to offer their support.

Our meetings take place on the first Sunday of every second month. Join us at our next meeting for an informal chat over kosher refreshments and coffee, Sunday, 2 September, 4-6 pm.

Please contact us for more information: [parents@keshet.org.au](mailto:parents@keshet.org.au)

In the greater Melbourne area, Keshet Australia offers social and cultural events for GLBTI Jews ranging from guest speakers, university social events and Jewish theatre.

Keshet plans to offer support, training, and resources to create a Jewish community that welcomes and affirms GLBTI Jews. Here are some things we're currently working on:

## Parents (Currently Running)

We have started Keshet Parents to help families learn to work with and embrace the hopes and dreams of their GLBTI offspring and to deal with the challenges of being parents of GLBTI children.

## Education (by Pesach 2013)

At Keshet we will be offering educational programs to teach rabbis, educators, youth leaders how to help GLBTI Jewish children with the issues surrounding their sexual orientation.

## Community

Keshet Australia's community focus is on educating the Australian Jewish community about GLBTI Jews; about their needs, issues, desires and strivings as they try to remain part of our Jewish community.

## Contacts

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