

JCS Journal



News from South Australia's Jewish Community Services

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CENTRE

SAYINGS:

Choose life!
Deuteronomy 30:19

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Multicultural Aged Care



home and community care

A JOINT COMMONWEALTH AND STATE/TERRITORY PROGRAM
PROVIDING FUNDING AND ASSISTANCE FOR AUSTRALIANS IN NEED

CEO'S Corner

I consider that where I can, I will look for the 'bright side of life'. It isn't always easy. The changes to the 'Aged Care Sector' is one that may affect Jewish Community Services. As we move to Federal Governance, I hope this will provide opportunities to apply for different grants to enhance the quality of life of our elderly. I am also seeking help from the Jewish Community.

The best way to support JCS will be for the community to tell everyone about what JCS does for the individual as well as the

great services that JCS provides.

I would like to wish everyone a *L'shana tova tik-ah-tey-vu* (May you be inscribed for a good year) and

I look forward to next year.



Debbie Boock

Chief Executive Officer

Why not become a volunteer with JCS?

As a JCS volunteer you could make new friends, have fun, learn new skills and share stories and information. And while you're doing all of this – you would be making an invaluable contribution to Adelaide's Jewish community.

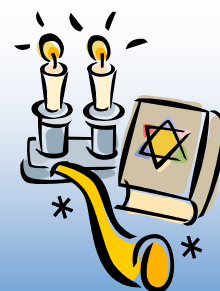
Many of the important functions of JCS are undertaken by volunteers – or at least volunteers provide an essential contribution to these functions. For example, the new JCS website was designed and developed by a volunteer, layout and writing of this newsletter is done by volunteers, and then there are the monthly Bagels Lunches, visiting clients, providing client transport to appointments and much more.

Whatever your talents, skills

and experience, JCS can help provide a rewarding volunteering role for you.

Just about everything is negotiable – how much time, how often or the kind of participation you'd like.

Give Debbie at JCS a call (phone 8212 0077) and have a chat to her about volunteering – you won't regret it!



לְשָׁנָה
טוֹבָה
תִּכְתְּבוּ

Change is in the air

aged and disability services

The Productivity Commission has recently published two important reports. One is about aged care and the other is about disability.

The Commission found that the *aged care system* suffers key weaknesses.



For example, the system is difficult to navigate, services are limited, and so is consumer choice.

The quality of care is variable. Pricing, subsidies and user contributions are inconsistent or inequitable. Workers in the sector generally receive low wages, some workers have insufficient skills and there is an overall shortage of workers in aged care.

The Commission's proposals aim to deliver higher quality care. The focus is



on the wellbeing of older Australians — promoting their independence, giving them choice and retaining their community engagement.

The Productivity Commission also found that the *disability support system* is underfunded, unfair, fragmented, and inefficient.

The system gives people with a disability little choice, it is difficult to access appropriate support and there is little scope within which to participate in the community.

People involved in the industry as well as governments want change.

So, the Australian Government asked the Productivity Commission to look at replacing the current arrangements with a properly funded and properly managed disability scheme.



The Productivity Commission found that a new national scheme for disability is feasible. It would operate in much the same way as Medicare does.

Such a national scheme would produce benefits for Australians and the Com-

mission believes there is a realistic way to implement the proposal.

The Commission also recommends the establishment of a National Injury Insurance Scheme that would provide lifetime support for people acquiring a catastrophic injury from an accident. It would be run at the state and territory level and would draw on existing arrangements in some states.

For further information on these two reports, go to the Commission's website <http://www.pc.gov.au/>

So, what is happening to the Commission's recommendations?

The Council of Australian Governments (COAG) considered the Commission's reports has agreed on the need for major reform of disability services in Australia through a National Disability Insurance Scheme.

(COAG is the peak inter-governmental forum in Australia, and consists of the Prime Minister, State Premiers, Territory Chief Ministers and the President of the Australian Local Government Association.)

Given the high priority that all governments place

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on disability care and support, COAG agreed to the establishment of a Select Council of Treasurers and Disability Services Ministers, chaired by the Commonwealth, to consider the recommendations of the Productivity Commission's report.

The Select Council will provide an initial report to COAG at its first meeting

scheduled in 2012.

COAG agreed to progress quickly the measures agreed as part of the National Disability Agreement. These have been identified as foundation reforms for a National Disability Insurance Scheme.

COAG also noted the Productivity Commission's recommendations about a National Injury Insurance Scheme and agreed to work together on this proposal.

At this stage it doesn't appear as though COAG has addressed the Commission's proposals relating to aged care.



And changes to mental health services ...

COAG has also agreed to start work on the development of a National Partnership Agreement on Mental Health which would focus on stable accommodation and support, planning in major hospitals and emergency departments, and

related support services.

The National Partnership will help move Australia's mental health system away from a crisis-driven system towards prevention, early intervention and care in the community.

COAG has also agreed to

commence work on a ten year plan for National Mental Health Reform.

For more information on all of this, go to the COAG website

<http://www.coag.gov.au/>

You can borrow equipment from JCS and get it checked for safety

Did you know that JCS has a small number of home assistance equipment items, ie shower chairs and toilet aids, which it can loan to clients for trial or for even longer periods if required?



The organisation also has a couple of wheelchairs which can be borrowed for short periods if needed to take clients on outings.

All equipment borrowed is for the sole use of that client and should not be transferred or loaned to any others. This is for safety reasons.

Items on longer term loan will be regularly checked to ensure they are still in good order.

If you have borrowed equipment that you are no longer using, please advise Jewish Community Services and arrange to return it to the office, so that after cleaning and checking it may be issued to others who may need it.

If you do have any JCS equipment, please call the Jewish Community Services office (phone: 8212 0077) and someone will do an inspection to make sure that it is still safe to use.



JCS Ongoing Activities

Jewish Community Services provides a number of regular and ongoing activities for the Jewish community. These include:

- **Bagels Monthly Lunches**
 - socialise, eat and listen to interesting guest speakers
- **Monthly Bus Excursions**
 - explore Adelaide and surrounds with others from the community from the comfort of a bus
- **Chaverim Exercise Group**
 - join friends every week (and if they aren't already, they will soon become your friends) for gentle chair-based exercises
- **Movie Afternoons**
 - watch a movie, followed by a discussion and afternoon tea
- **Tai Chi**
 - gentle movements that promote health and overall well-being as well as improving concentration
- **Walking**
 - Sunday 'Walkie Talkies', always finishing up at a cafe for coffee

(Hot weather policy: if the temperature is forecast to be over 35 degrees, the event will be cancelled).



**For more details
contact
Debbie or Bob at
JCS on
8212 0077.**

**Do you require
assistance with
transport?**

Call the Centre.

The Hotel Bill

An elderly lady decided to give herself a big treat for her significant birthday by staying overnight in one of Adelaide's most expensive hotels.

When she checked out the next morning, the desk clerk handed her a bill for \$250. She exploded and demanded to know why the charge was so high.

It's a nice hotel but the rooms certainly aren't worth \$250 for just an overnight stay without even breakfast.

The clerk told her that \$250 is the 'standard rate' so she insisted on speaking to the manager.

The manager announced *The hotel has an Olympic-sized pool and a huge conference centre which are available for use.*

But I didn't use them she said.

Well, they are here and you could have explained the manager.

He went on to explain that she could also have seen one of the in-hotel shows for which the hotel is famous. *We have the best entertainers from all over the world performing here* the manager said.

But I didn't go to any of those shows she said.

Well, we have them and you could have the manager replied. No matter what amenity the manager would mention, she replied *But I didn't use it!* The manager was unmoved, so she decided to pay, wrote a cheque out and handed it to him.

The manager was surprised when he looked at the cheque. *But Madam, this cheque is only made out for \$50.*

That's correct. I charged you \$200 for sleeping with me she replied.

But I didn't! exclaimed the surprised manager.

Well, too bad, I was here, and you could have!

Don't mess with Senior Citizens!

Donations & Bequests

If you care about Adelaide's Jewish community and if you would like to ensure that we can continue to provide community and welfare services, you can assist in many ways. Volunteering is one, and providing financial as-

sistance is another.

You might consider making a bequest to Jewish Community Services as part of your will or you could make a donation – or even consider regular donations. Even the smallest bequest or the smallest

donation makes a vital contribution to our community.

Remember – donations to JCS are tax-deductible.

Call Debbie at Jewish Community Services on 8212 0077 for further information about bequests and donations.