



2024-25 Annual Report



**National Council of Jewish Women
of Australia**

The voice of Jewish Women in Australia

Table of Contents

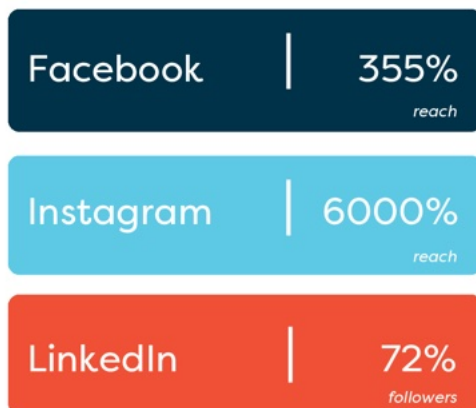
	Section	Page
01	Impact Summary	03
02	About Us	04
03	President's Report	05
04	Committee Reports	08
05	Honorary Life Members	19
06	State Section Reports	21
07	Treasurer's Report	30



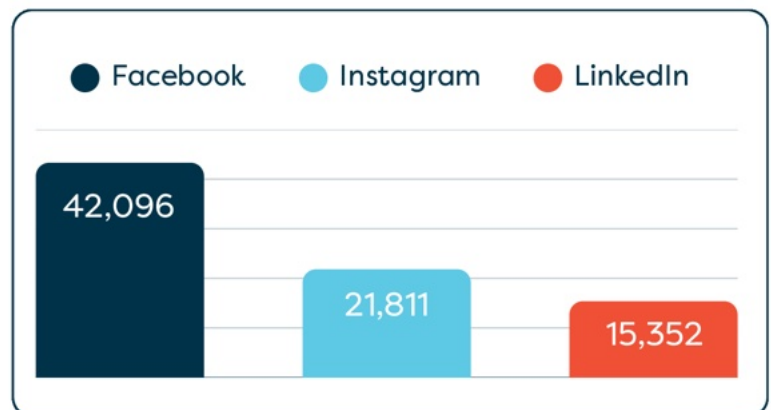
Impact Summary

Social media performance

Percentage increase on previous year



Number of people reached



Engagement activity

Meetings with politicians and other decision makers | 50 +

Events: boardrooms, salons, webinars etc... | 21

Open rate for 'Esther Speaks' newsletter | 70% +



About Us

Our Organisational Structure



Who we are

National Council of Jewish Women of Australia (NCJWA) is the peak representative body for Jewish women in Australia. We focus on human rights, social justice and the advancement of all women.

Vision

An Australian society that is equitable and inclusive for all women and girls

Mission

To represent, empower and advocate on behalf of Jewish women in Australia

President's Report



President
Lynda Ben-Menashe

It is my great honour to present this first AGM Report as president of NCJWA. This is the first role serving the Jewish community I've been able to take as a full-time volunteer, and that is an enormous privilege which I do not take for granted.

This Report covers the 8-month period from when my new Board began, in August 2024, and we have done a lot in those 8 months. In Genesis Rabbah we are told that "even an angel cannot do two things at the same time." To me this is confirmation that my Board and committees are beyond angelic, because reading this report you will see that each one of them seems to have done more than five things at the same time. Instead of ending my report with thanks to them, I begin it, because without these women as partners I would have achieved nothing.

So what have we achieved together? First and most importantly, we have navigated the journey that all Jewish and other community organisation have had to navigate in recent years from being a 'membership-based' organisation to being a 'mission-driven' one.

NCJWA National has never had direct members – its State Sections have members and the Sections themselves are members of National. Section membership now seems to be growing again, but growing even faster and further is our subscriber base. That is, the number of people who are attracted by our mission and who engage with us daily or weekly or monthly via any of our channels: at our face-to-face events or our monthly online webinars, or our revived social media (Instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn and YouTube) or our brand-new website or email newsletter, 'Esther Speaks'.

Close to 10,000 women are now engaged with NCJWA on a regular and ongoing basis. And those are not just Jewish women – they include the female opinion leaders and decision makers from the wider community whom we meet with, and host at our events, and reach virtually on a daily basis.

The mission which attracts these women to us is what we focused on refining at NCJWA's Strategy Day in March. It is in fact little changed from the mission of NCJWA's revolutionary feminist founder, Dr Fanny Reading MBE: "to represent, empower and advocate on behalf of Jewish women in Australia" in order to progress towards the vision of "an Australian society that is equitable and inclusive for all women and girls". The world for Jewish women in 2024-25 is different from what Dr Fanny navigated over her three decades at the helm, but I wager the challenges are of similar magnitude. She remains an inspiration for me every day.

The 19th century German rabbi Samson Raphael Hirsh argued that only by joining a community can one's work be made universal and eternal. I decided to take on this role in the NCJWA community for this reason. Like so many other Jewish women I was already called to 'do the work,' and even more loudly after October 7 2023. NCJWA has given us all a framework and a platform to elevate and magnify that work, and to amplify the work being done by so many other organisations.

One of the things we try to do differently at NCJWA is be truly collaborative and complementary (not competitive) with others, and also open to new ways of doing things. We are trying to role-model a different style of communal leadership.

We have developed solid, synergistic working partnerships with the two Jewish roof bodies we are affiliated with, the Executive Council of Australian Jewry and the Zionist Federation of Australia, and also with other Jewish women's organisations like WIZO, and with the Australasian Union of Jewish Students, currently led by two female co-presidents. We partner for events with government and non-government organisations for women, including the National Council of Women and various multicultural women's groups.

We are now the go-to body for media comment from the Jewish women's perspective – and not only the women's perspective – on issues of concern to Jewish and all Australians. Our media profile is high and rising every month.

We have renovated and innovated both the structure and the programming of NCJWA. COVID obviously changed the way NCJWA and all organisations did business – 7 months ago NCJWA had a Board and delivered virtual programming. Today we have a Board that includes every State Section plus Directors who chair our 6 brand new Committees: Engagement, Social Justice, Communications, Resources, Conference and Allies. Dozens of women are now working on these Committees, hand in glove with our Board.

This allows us to deliver a suite of brand-new programs, including Boardroom Luncheons, Salons, Jewish Resilience Workshops, a Speaker Service, Listening Campaigns, Women's Voices Webinars, and Research Services.

We have many more plans. The NCJWA Conference will return in 2026. Conference Committee Chair Di Hirsh OAM is a past national president and she leads a team of women who have both NCJWA legacy experience and fresh young eyes.

And that is in fact who NCJWA is today: both old – in the very nicest sense of the word – and brand new. We've been calling ourselves a '102-year-old start-up' and that is really how it feels.

We are flying, and I'm so grateful to have an amazing co-pilot in Vice President Liora Miller. Liora is clever, conscientious, tireless, and pedantic in the best possible way. The other two brilliant and talented women on our Executive Team are Hon Secretary Helen Lewin and Hon Treasurer Joanne Silver, both of whom make my life easier just by being on the other end of the phone, sometimes multiple times a day.

I'd also like to pay tribute to our first vice president, Moran Dvir, who stepped back from the role to do even more excellent Jewish advocacy work in the political sector. She is still one of our incredible NCJWA Board members. I thank her, Annette Cohen, Tanna Klevansky, Shirley Leader, Nikki Marczak, Lara Morris, Gail Paratz OAM, Anna Serry, and Barbara Shotland, all of whose excellent reports you will read in this booklet.

May the next 12 months bring some relief to Jewish women in Australia, an end to the war, and more than anything, the release of the remaining 50 hostages who are in our hearts and prayers every single day.

Am Israel Chai!

“

The **racial vilification of Jewish people** by organisations claiming to be champions of anti-racism has now reached **epidemic proportions** in Australia.

Lynda Ben-Menashe
NCJWA National President

THE AUSTRALIAN 

COMMENTARY by Lynda Ben-Menashe

UN women are failing their Jewish sisters



NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN AUSTRALIA



Our fourth NCJWA Boardroom Luncheon, featuring bi-partisan perspectives from LGBTQIA+ activist Julie McCrossin AM and conservative journalist Peta Credlin, Melbourne



Webinar with Dr Na'ama from Sheba Hospital

“

National Council of Jewish women Australia condemns the **cruel, cynical and disgraceful** use by Hamas of a Palestinian woman's body as a weapon of war..



Lynda Ben-Menashe
NCJWA National President

”

Engagement Committee

Aims to provide a 'home' for Jewish women in Australia of diverse age, ethnic, religious and political backgrounds, and to develop and deepen relationships with women from the wider community

The Engagement Committee was formed as soon as the new National Board began its work, drafting a strategic plan based on the findings of the first NCJWA Listening Campaign and aligned with our mission to amplify, complement and not duplicate the engagement work undertaken by other Jewish roof bodies. Our mission is to foster collaboration between Australian women, amplify the voices of Jewish women, and ensure that our perspectives and concerns are represented in key public forums. We are proud of the foundation we've laid and the credibility we've built after just 7 months of activity.



Co-Chairs
Liora Miller
Lynda Ben-Menashe
Moran Dvir



BOARDROOM LUNCHEONS: We immediately began hosting prominent non-Jewish women in thought leadership for high-impact, interactive conversations. The first luncheons held in both Sydney and Melbourne were 'How October 7 Changed My Life' and 'Say No to Antisemitism'.



SALONS: We pioneered Salon events in private homes across Australia, to provide an intimate and safe space in which Jewish women can engage with others from the wider community on issues of common concern. Our first three featured speakers Professor Boaz Ganor, Maayan Hoffman, and Sharri Markson.



WEBINARS: Our monthly virtual programming extended NCJWA's reach to thousands of people nationally and globally. These first Women's Voices Webinars were: Julie Szego in conversation; Trauma & Healing after October 7 with Dr Na'ama from Sheba Hospital (500+ attendees); From Captivity to Courage with Kylie Moore-Gilbert; Beyond Borscht & Babushkas – panel of Russian-speaking women; and Beyond Seinfeld to Zhug – panel of 5 young Mizrahi Jewish Australian women.

OTHER INITIATIVES: Pioneering ‘Shelter from the Storm’ events in Brisbane & Perth; International Women’s Day events in Sydney, Melbourne & Perth; UN Human Rights Day Vigils calling for the release of Israeli hostages in Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane & Perth; Facilitation of Australian Human Rights Commission ‘Seen & Heard’ consultations in Sydney & Melbourne; Australian Launch of Chutzpah Girls; and 2 Listening Campaigns. Our mapping of the Womens Sector in Australia began and is ongoing.

MEETINGS with OPINION LEADERS & DECISION MAKERS: In every state we have proactively sought and held meetings with countless women and men who shape the national conversation and character in politics, media, academia and civil society. These meetings and the development of these relationships are ongoing and ever-expanding.



Liora Miller with former Premier of Victoria Daniel Andrews AC



Lynda Ben-Menashe at Parliament House with Julian Leeser MP



Lynda Ben-Menashe and Moran Dvir with guests at our first Melbourne Boardroom Lucheon



Moran Dvir and Anna Serry with Victorian Minister for Women Natalie Hutchins MP



Lynda Ben-Menashe and Pnina Hagege with NSW Minister for Women Jodie Harrison MP

Committee

Liora Miller; Moran Dvir; Lynda Ben-Menashe; Michal Bar-Kokhba; Miriam Bass; Amanda Blackman; Tania Burstin; Roxanne Dunkel; Lisa Farber; Karen Firestone; Karen Freedman; Danielle Jaku-Greenfield; Samantha Khavin; Carol Langley; Karen Levin; Hilit Man; Lorin Muhlmann; Phebe Parish; Amie Rochman, Nicky Stein; Antonella Ventura

Francesca Albanese's latest dismissal of the October 7 atrocities is no surprise, given her consistent disregard for Jewish lives. Despite her claim to 'feminism,' her activism pointedly excludes Jewish women, revealing a deeper prejudice.



Mandy Mereowitz & Nicky Stein at NSW Department of Communities and Justice Multicultural Women's Domestic Violence Summit, Sydney

National visit with NCJWA WA's Shalom Group, Perth



 ncjwa national



Caroline O'Hare PSM, Chief Inspector Lara Raymond

This is not the community my father – or my daughter – knew

The suburb of Bankstown has become smeared with the hate of two vile nurses but the area contains many positive multicultural memories.

LYNDA BEN-MENASHE

Social Justice Committee



Chair
Nikki Marczak

Aims to highlight and address social justice issues affecting Australian and Jewish Australian women specifically

This Committee was established following the 2024 AGM in August. Our first tasks were to identify and reach out to Jewish women with expertise in social justice areas, and put together a list of social justice issues that may be on NCJWA's agenda.

The Chair drafted a strategic plan for consideration by the committee, which came together in December 2024 for its first meeting. Under discussion were the findings of the first NCJWA Listening Survey, which formed the foundation of the committee's understanding of priority areas for Jewish women in Australia. Antisemitism ranked highly on that list, as expected.

At the suggestion of SJC member Carole Schlessinger, NCJWA partnered with Kids Giving Back for International Women's Day (March 2025), to promote the "Cook4Good" session, where we'll come together to cook nutritious meals for those in need including the Northern Beaches Women's Shelter, connect with like-minded women, and celebrate the power of giving back.

Social Justice Issues

- Violence against women & domestic violence
- Discrimination against women and especially antisemitism against Jewish women including in the women's movement
- Human rights
- Issues affecting First Nations women
- Lesbians' rights
- Child protection
- Issues affecting refugees and asylum seekers
- Climate justice
- Homelessness and poverty
- Women with disabilities
- Holocaust commemoration and education

Committee


Nikki Marczak; Helen Bryant; Maya Glassman; Karen Levin; Dr Sharon Marjenberg; Suzi Parker; Hannah Rother; Carole Schlessinger



From Esther to Today

Jewish **SHEROES** making an **IMPACT**

ECAJ | NCJWA



Human rights activist and journalist Cheng Lei with Lynda Ben-Menashe at an NCJWA Boardroom Luncheon, Melbourne

Falling through history

We can only despair if the sight of Ariel, Kfir and who we thought was Shiri returning in coffins does not recalibrate Australia's moral compass

Lynda Ben-Menashe



“Shiri was every Jewish woman abducted or raped or murdered by a baying mob

It is our job to say to the world around us, “We have seen this thing before and we know where it leads and how it ends.” The fate of the Elhan family is such a pattern. Over years we have said to the world “Look at the low hatred tonight

ncjwa national

PESACH SAMEACH


NCJWA wishes all our members, and Jewish people across Australia, a Pesach Kasher v Sameach.

May 5785 be the last year of Jewish, Bedouin, Thai, Tanzanian and Nepalese souls languishing in horrific bondage in Egypt.

These 59 of our sisters and brothers, 24 living and 35 murdered, must be released **IMMEDIATELY!**



Lynzi Bennun, Dr Antonella Ventura and Renee Pinshaw at an NCJWA Salon, Sydney



Communications Committee

Aims to amplify the messaging of NCJWA via all means

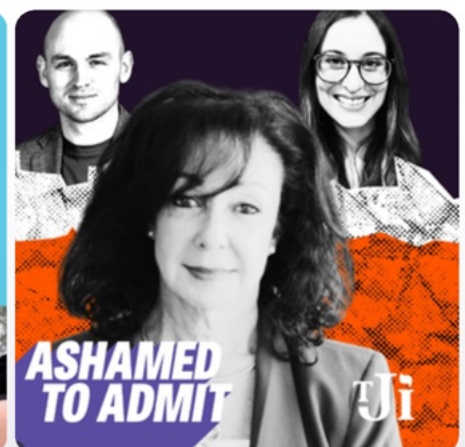


Acting Chair
Tanna Klevansky

When the current Board commenced in August 2024, we recognised a pressing need to rebuild NCJWA's media and digital strategy. With fresh leadership and renewed priorities following the events of October 7 2023, we got straight to work. This Committee brought together an extraordinary group of professional women with experience in public affairs, media, politics, journalism, and Jewish community advocacy.

Special thanks to Annette Cohen for getting the committee off the ground. After she stepped back as Chair, Tanna Klevansky and Lynzi Bennun took over leadership of the committee.

Under Lynda Ben-Menashe's presidency, NCJWA's public profile has grown significantly. We have ensured that Jewish women's voices are present in media coverage of issues affecting our community and are now regularly published in mainstream (and Jewish) media in the form of interviews, op-eds, and comments. We have well established relationships with journalists and Lynda has developed a strong media presence. This media engagement has positioned NCJWA as a trusted Jewish peak body source.



Our social media channels have been reinvigorated thanks to the incredible efforts of volunteers Tanna, Lara, and Nadine. We now post regularly across Instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn and YouTube, with steadily increasing engagement. From a starting point of close to zero, our total subscriber reach is now between 5,000 - 10,000. Our new monthly email newsletter “Esther Speaks” reaches thousands of Jewish women across Australia, maintaining an average open rate of over 70%, which is unprecedented for such communications.

We have worked on strengthening the committee’s long-term governance, including developing a new communications strategy and a Women’s Media Calendar.

NCJWA's communications work is only just beginning, but the foundations are strong, and momentum is growing. Recognising the limited capacity of volunteer committee members, we hope to engage a paid part-time communications strategist to lead our strategy work and support the President. We look forward to continuing to amplify Jewish women's voices across Australia.



Committee

Tanna Klevansky; Lynzi Bennun; Annette Cohen; Karen Freyer; Judy Goldman; Phina Hagege; Lara Goodridge; Nadine Salcman; Nathalie Samia

Resource Committee



Chair
Shirley Leader

Supports NCJWA by gathering the relevant human, information and material resources for each project and program

This Committee has played a vital role in supporting NCJWA in its mission to represent, empower and advocate on behalf of Jewish women in Australia. Comprised of committed volunteers with expertise in research, policy, education, and community engagement, the committee has focused on sourcing, developing and curating high-quality informational resources aligned with our values of inclusion, equity and justice.

Achievements

A centralised digital platform for managing organisational resources:

- enhancing operational efficiency, supporting collaboration and a scalable foundation.

Targeted literature reviews:

- informing government submissions and stakeholder consultations on topics including multicultural engagement, gender equality, racial and religious discrimination and human rights
- strengthening advocacy efforts with evidence-based insights rooted in lived experience.

Collaboration

- with other committees and Jewish bodies, both well-established and newer, grassroots volunteer groups

Future work

- expanding partnerships and increasing accessibility
- continuing to support NCJWA's goal of an informed, empowered, and resilient Australian Jewish women's community.

Committee

Shirley Leader; Jacqui Binder; Melinda Braun; Jana Green; Kate Mannix; Dr Elke Mendels; Mandy Meyerowitz; Marion Rosen



Moran Dvir with Deputy Prime Minister Richard Marles

“

How despicable that these nurses, who are supposed to be caregivers to all humanity, feel free to express their **filthy Jew hatred** in this way.

”

Beyond Borscht & Babushkas

Jewish Women from the Former Soviet Union talk about their lived experiences



Lee Kofman



Anna Maylis



Roz Bellamy



Anna Kharzeeva



Regional visit to Jewish women in Toowomba, Qld

WHERE ARE THE FEMINISTS?

Why Jewish women must lead

In the face of such unimaginable suffering, the international outcry has been muted.

By ANNA SERRY

February 26, 2025, 12:15 pm



Allies Committee



Chair, Lynda
Ben-Menashe

Comprises women from outside the Jewish community who share our values and goals, and aims to support the work of NCJWA to build an Australian society that is equitable and inclusive for all women and girls

An Allies Committee is something NCJWA has never had before. But in the post-October 7 world, thinking outside the box is not only important, but essential.

The eleven women on this committee come from diverse cultural and religious backgrounds and professional spheres including media, medicine, education, law, social work and the corporate sector.

We invited them to join us as they are all long-time friends of the Jewish community. Leaders with vision, spirit and courage, who are not afraid to raise their voices when so many others remain silent.

Being the first of its kind, the Committee began by meeting monthly to discuss pressing issues of the day and situations the members were facing in their allyship with us. The meetings now generate ideas for practical actions and projects and each successive month we have seen more opeds, socials posts and other public statements of solidarity produced. In addition, the members and friends and colleagues they have brought in are regular attendees at NCJWA events.

Our respect and appreciation for these remarkable eleven women is immense.

Committee

Lynda Ben-Menashe; Jacqui Bakker; Larissa Cook; Virginia Gordon AM; Dr Wendy Lawrance; Kate Mannix; Julie McCrossin AM; Tracy McLeod; Mala Mehta OAM; Teresa Pirola; Delphine Marie Umawezie



National Council of Jewish Women of Australia - NCJWA

March 18 · 🌐

Deeply touching piece for Catholic audiences by Dr Teresa Pirola



One of many pieces written by NCJWA Allies Committee member Dr Teresa Pirola



Councillor Tatyna Virgara, Sophie Smith and Councillor Carol Tannous Sleiman at an NCJWA Salon, Sydney

CHUTZPAH GIRLS Australian Launch



Annalouise Paul



Joanna Weinberg



Ruth Fingret



“

This latest disgusting attack, on a childcare centre in Maroubra, shows that **every Australian child is now in danger of fatal harm** by those who hate Jewish people.”

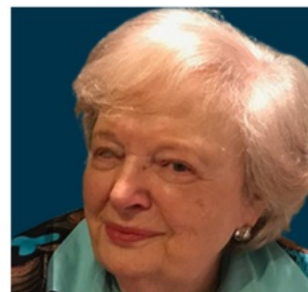
18



Lynda Ben-Menashe
NCJWA National President

Honourary Life Members

Life Governor



Malvina Malinek
OAM



Judith
Benjamin



Dinah Danon OAM



Ruth Dunn



Jennifer
Faigenbaum



Carolyn
Goldsmith OAM



Gael Hammer



Di Hirsh OAM



Susie Ivany OAM



Rysia Rozen
OAM



Dr Anita Shroot



Ester Steingiesser



Barbara Stewart-
Kann OAM



Meeting with NSW Women's Safety Commissioner and Chief of Staff

A message from Professor Marcia Langton AO



[WATCH NOW](#)

Professor Marcia Langton AO honours the long and deep relationship between Jewish and First Nations Australians



Allegra Spender sends message to NCJWA on antisemitism



Lynda Ben-Menashe & NCJWA NSW Vice President Nathalie Samia meet the NSW Minister for Multiculturalism

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Hurt by silence

CARLY ADNO

AS the Jewish community grapples with the ongoing silence from women's organisations in response to the atrocities inflicted on Israeli women, Lynda Ben-Menashe (pictured) has offered a glimmer of hope.



Ben-Menashe, president of the National Council of Jewish Women of Australia (NCJWA), was recently speaking to a Jewish audience in Sydney when a woman mentioned the word 're-Jew-venation'.

"That speaks to me profoundly about the impact of the tragedy of the past 16 months on our community and on Jewish women's place in it," she said.

"Jewish women have stepped up into the limelight, and we will not be stepping back anytime in the foreseeable future."

Ahead of International Women's Day this Saturday, Ben-Menashe said it has been "common

shake the anger, disappointment and sadness that so many mainstream women's organisations and self-proclaimed feminists have failed to muster any meaningful words of support. Neither UN Women nor UN Women Australia mentioned the barbaric kidnapping and murder of Shiri Bibas and her two sons Ariel and Kfir, while some feminists minimised the events.

Ben-Menashe has previously said the NCJWA had long asked UN Women Australia to mention the plight of the Israeli women raped, massacred and abducted on October 7, but each time were told it was not possible.

"The silence of the majority of 'feminist organisations' has been deeply disappointing, and in fact hurtful, given that the feminist movement itself was largely founded by Jewish women," said Ben-Menashe.

"The betrayal felt by Zionist Jewish women in the feminist movement is profound, and their exclusion mirrors the exclusion of Zionist Jews from progressive

Since our February 2025 AGM, the addition of three new Board members and the return of a former Director have strengthened our leadership, skills, and networks.

Our programs continue to meet DGR requirements, supporting women, children, and families from birth to retirement. Highlights include breast cancer support and our Jana Gottshall Memorial Library's quarterly discussion groups on Jewish women's literature. A proud moment was the virtual unveiling of a Woollahra footpath plaque honouring our founder, Dr Fanny Reading MBE, nominated by National President Lynda.

Repairing our Boardroom was finally completed, and expert advice has guided our commitment to transition to solar energy in line with our sustainability goals.

Fundraising has resumed at Council House, including hall hire and community-focused events like financial literacy lectures for all ages.

In response to antisemitism-driven vandalism and violence targeting Jewish institutions across the country, we successfully applied for and received security funding.

As I enter my final six months as Caretaker President, I'm proud of our progress. We have successfully transitioned out of a rocky period to a more stable, future-focused organisation.

Sincere thanks to Lynda Ben-Menashe, the National Board, and our dedicated committees for guiding NCJWA through significant challenges.

Wishing ongoing strength and success to all involved.

Warm regards,
Barbara Shotland
President NCJWA NSW





L-R Board members Steph Whitmont, Ralene Carr-Reuveny, Barbara Shotland, Fran Rutstein, Nathalie Samia, Ruth Shteinman, Karen Fried



UN Human Rights Day Vigil, Sydney CBD



Day for Girls school holiday workshop to produce sanitary kits for women and girls in need

New South Wales

This past year at NCJWA Vic has been one of profound challenge, resilience, and renewal. We stood firmly as a Jewish feminist organisation responding to the rapidly-shifting world in the aftermath of October 7, a moment that reshaped our community's sense of safety, visibility, and responsibility.

Through uncertainty and rising antisemitism, we remained steadfast in our values: supporting women, children, and families; advocating for Israeli women's rights; and fostering respectful and nuanced dialogue. We provided space for grief and hope, while strengthening our focus on community cohesion and inclusion.

Despite the turbulence, our programs flourished. We launched timely advocacy initiatives and public conversations on Jewish women's safety, mental health, gender equity, and interfaith understanding. A highlight was the launch of Accelerator, our newest program in partnership with LaunchPad, which supports and empowers Jewish women changemakers to step into leadership and drive community impact.

We also marked a significant leadership transition, welcoming incoming President Anna Serry and farewelling CEO Lisa Ezekiel, whose compassionate and visionary leadership has left an enduring legacy.

Looking forward, plans for renovating our community home are progressing, led by a remarkable committee of female professionals in the building and construction sector. We're also reimagining our program offerings to reach more women with greater impact and care. As part of this forward focus, we have restructured our operational team to deliver a more efficient and sustainable model to ensure our resources are directed where they are needed most.

Our strength continues to lie in our relationships, across generations, communities, and the many expressions of Jewish identity. We thank our dedicated volunteers and supporters for their generous contributions of time, energy, and resources. Together, we remain committed to walking beside Jewish women through the defining moments of our time.

Warm regards,
Anna Serry
President, NCJWA VIC





L-R Board Members: Tanya Cherny, Marlo Newton, Lesley Ber, Dr Zivit Inbar, Anna Serry, Sally Davis, Keren Lewinsohn Absent: Paris Enten and Board Observer Kim Smiley

UN Human Rights Day Vigil, Melbourne CBD



Victoria

Our Section supports women and families, through social connection and advocacy for Jewish women here and in Israel.

Our Share the Dignity collection packed over 30 bags for homeless women, including teens and new mothers, in time for Christmas. We gathered at a Cup Day social lunch to prepare the donations.

We partnered with the Catholic Church to host a mock Shabbat dinner at St Stephen's Cathedral – an evening of food, learning, and interfaith connection. Jewish guests sat at each table to share traditions and answer questions.

We have committed to funding an annual bursary through the National Council of Women of Queensland for a woman studying education with strong community involvement.

We also support the Northwest Community Group, collecting goods for people facing homelessness—most recently following devastating evictions ahead of winter - an no opportunity to relocate.

We raise funds annually for Beit Micha in Israel through a raffle and also donate to various local charities which we review each year.

Our most visible presence is at Brisbane's Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration, where we run the popular coffee, tea, and cake stall.

We continue to stay active in both the Jewish and broader interfaith communities in Brisbane.

Warm regards,
Sheila Levine
President, NCJWA QLD





Secretary Carolyn Goldsmith OAM, President Sheila Levine, Vice President Gail Paratz OAM



NCJWA's Inaugural 'Shelter From the Storm' event, Brisbane



National Committee members from Queensland Hannah Rother, Dr Elke Mendels, and Candice Silver with National Board members Nikki Marczak and Lynda Ben-Menashe

Queensland

This year has been an incredible journey marked by purpose and partnership, and I am deeply grateful for the dedication and passion each member of my Board brings to our community.

This year, we honoured memory and tradition through our participation in ANZAC Day and Yom Hashoah commemorations. We also remembered beloved members, including Lilian Kessly z"l, whose legacy inspires us.

Our events brought us together in meaningful ways, from the International Women's Day Walk at Lake Monger to celebrate solidarity, to the Shalom Group's 45th Anniversary and the Natanya Group's 50th Anniversary High Tea, which highlighted decades of sisterhood. The JIFF Movie Afternoon with WIZO was another cultural success, fostering connection and raising funds for important causes. We also held a vigil to highlight the plight of Israeli hostages on UN Human Rights Day, which was coordinated with similar vigils around the country.

Social impact remained at the heart of our efforts, with donations to Orana House and the Haifa Women's Crisis Centre, as well as creative initiatives like card-making for Israeli children. These acts of kindness remind us of the power of giving.

We also took significant steps toward engaging our youth and shaping our future vision. The Hyde Park picnic drew over 20 young attendees, sparking ideas for future gatherings, and plans for Shavuot events continue to grow.

On a national level, we welcomed Lynda Ben-Menashe as National President and celebrated Lara's appointment to the National Board. Our participation in the Strategic Planning Day in Melbourne and the launch of our new logo underscore our commitment to leadership and innovation.

Archiving and legacy work progressed with the archival handover to JHGS. Governance and membership discussions have been ongoing, with efforts to streamline processes and drive membership growth through initiatives like the QR code and payment link in the Maccabean.

Together, we are building a community that not only reflects on its achievements but also embraces the opportunities of tomorrow.

Warm regards,
Lara Morris
President, NCJWA WA





L-R Board members with our National President: Jenny Feigenbaum, Lynda, Iara Morris, Louise Wingens, Co-President Valerie Frank, Krisna Nidorp



Iara Morris and Lynda Ben-Menashe with WA Education Minister Tony Buti MP and JCCWA President Geoff Midalia

Western Australia

Feminists should tear down the Hateriarchy

Lynda Ben-Menashe

A suburban childcare centre daubed with the words "F--- the Jews" and set ablaze – the sixth firebombing of property in exactly two months. Three of the six arson attacks were on synagogues, the other three were on the cars, businesses and homes of Australians whose neighbours are Jewish.

We are all the victims of hate crimes, even if we're not the designated targets. And at this time of year, when we are supposed to examine our "Australian values", it's worth thinking about that.

A childcare centre. What kind of depravity motivates someone to desecrate and firebomb a place where infants learn and play and sleep? I've been waiting for the outpouring of condemnation from Australian parenting and family NGOs. The furious posts from mommy bloggers and children's rights activists. The outrage on X from feminists. Crickets.

Feminists are the people whose heroes tore down the patriarchy. I'm a feminist and we're still trying to tear it down. Misogyny and patriarchy are still proper targets for our anger, our energy and our action.

In 2025, patriarchy's kind of a safe target, though. Being for saying you

are) a feminist is de rigueur in government and business and academia, as it should be.

But as the leader of Australia's 101-year old peak representative body for Jewish women, I'm perturbed that almost none of our feminist sisters are talking about the other system that needs to be torn down the Hateriarchy.

I think they're not talking about it, or that childcare centre blaze specifically, because a number of them have drunk the KoolAid of the Hateriarchy. Since October 7, 2023 the trend to what I call 'exclusionary feminism' – because their commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion excludes Jewish women – has become an absolute explosion (pun intended). The juxtaposition of words and silence from these people is instructive.

Exclusionary feminists who correctly lament the plight of Palestinian women killed or displaced by this war started by Hamas say not a word about Israeli women raped, massacred, abducted or displaced by them.

Instead, they reject even the UN's report about the sexual violence, saying "this is not a #MeToo or 'Believe all women' moment".

Not a word about the tableau we saw a week ago when three young Israeli women were paraded by uniformed, balalaika-wielding, submachine-gun toting Hamas terrorists as they were being "released" from 15 months of bondage in the middle of a sea of men baying for their blood.

Or this week, when another four were paraded like meat on a stage, flanked by the same monsters.

Contrast with those silences the exclusionary feminists' screeching about Jewish/Zionist women – by which they mean me and over 90 per cent of Jewish Australian women.

A survey of Jewish Australians conducted by Monash University in the weeks after October 7 found that 91 per cent of respondents had an emotional attachment to Israel.

I am one of that 91 per cent, who understand Zionism as the right for Jewish people to have sovereignty in our ancestral homeland, Israel, where my own father was born.

That doesn't mean I don't believe in the rights of Palestinian people to their own sovereignty too. As a Zionist feminist I care about the rights of all the women who live in Israel – Jewish, Arab, Christian, Muslim, Druse, Bahai and more. I care about the rights of Palestinian women too, one of whom has been the tour guide I've

worked with for over ten years, taking study tours to Israel and the West Bank. But silence isn't much part of the public conversation today.

The stated duty of exclusionary feminists is to "make every space culturally unsafe for (us) Zionists". They express acidic contempt for our "Jewish feelings". At university "human rights" conferences they present Der Stürmer-worthy caricatures of "Dot-ton Jews" which they claim as comedy.

They share names, addresses and/or photos of the Jewish people they dub "Jewish Zionism creatives" – including an 11-year-old girl.

No wonder the hate-filled exclusionary feminists haven't said a word about the burning down of that childcare centre. They say they want to burn Australia down, after all.

"The only day that will be celebrated in this colony is the day it burns," was how one activist put it.

We should all take note that recipients of these despicable words have received more than a million taxpayer dollars in funding for their academic and artistic "work". And there are many more recipients of government funding who align with them.

It's time to wake up and realise that the enemy of Jewish Australians is the enemy of all Australians.

The next childcare centre they daub with "F--- the Jews" and burn down, might have your toddler sleeping inside at nap time. It's well beyond time to tear down the Hateriarchy.

Lynda Ben-Menashe is national president of the National Council of Jewish Women Australia.

Exclusionary feminists say not a word about Israeli women raped by Hamas



Multicultural Minister's Book Launch, Perth



ncjwa national
wishes
all Jewish
heroines a
Chanukah
Sameach.

“ Jewish women's rights are human rights too, and we call for the immediate release of them all. ”

HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL

RELEASE THE ISRAELI HOSTAGES NOW!

Lynda Ben-Menashe
NCJWA National President

WHAT MY MIZRAHI HERITAGE MEANS TO ME

In the week commemorating the Expulsion of Jews from Arab countries and Iran, six Australian Jewish women talk about their Middle Eastern family backgrounds and their own intersectional identities

Hila Tsor
Libya & Iraq

Pnina Hagege
Tunisia

Talía Ben-Menashe
Yemen

Elly Springer
Iran

Eliyah Cohen
Morocco

Julia Anderson
Algeria



NSW Ethnic Communities Council CEO Mary Karras and Sally Warneford at an NCJWA Boardroom Luncheon, Sydney

Treasurer's Report

It is with great pleasure that I present the Treasurer's Report for 2024-25. Our financial statements have been prepared in full compliance with the Australian Accounting Standards.

Income and Financial Management

Our new Board's first few months were spent bringing NCJWA's finances up to date and restoring system access. We reconciled four years of bank statements, staff superannuation, and PAYG (ATO) payments. All liabilities are now paid, and we can again compare operating costs year-on-year.

Historically, NCJWA National's income came from state Section memberships and interest on term deposits. This declined significantly in recent years as Sections adopted other operating models and the previous Board drew on our reserve fund. The new Board has begun generating income through our events and we have been blessed with donations. We reinstated term deposits to accrue interest, and are managing the Sylvia Gelman Bequest responsibly.

Acknowledgments

With the generous support of ABL, we are applying for Deductible Gift Recipient status as a harm prevention charity.

Despite our extremely limited financial resources, NCJWA delivers professional events thanks to ABL and other corporate sponsors, other community organisations, and most of all, the tremendous efforts of our volunteers. Much of our cost savings are due to our president Lynda Ben-Menashe employing no staff, and functioning as a full-time unpaid professional worker. Lynda's vision and dedication have transformed NCJWA into a powerhouse punching well above its weight. Looking ahead, we plan to establish a Bequest Committee and explore additional sustainable funding models.

It has been a very busy year. I thank my Finance Committee, Lynda Ben-Menashe and Helen Lewin, for their ongoing support, and the Board for their trust and constructive thinking.

Warm regards,
Jo Silver
Treasurer, NCJWA



Financials at a glance

2025 Revenue:
\$28K



Improved 100% from \$14K in 2024

Net Loss:
-\$15K



Improved 38% from -\$24K in 2024

Operational Cash Flow:
\$194K



Down 8% from \$210K in 2024

Growth Chart



2024

Revenue

\$14.5K

Loss

-\$24.1K

2025

Revenue

\$28.2K

Loss

-\$15.8K

NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR JEWISH WOMEN OF AUSTRALIA LIMITED

For the year ended 31 March 2025

	2025 \$	2024 \$
INCOME		
Section Fees		
Affiliation Fees	1,046	2,282
Membership Dues	2,080	1,630
Brisbane Section: Project Micha		1,000
Events		
Boardroom Luncheons	960	
Jewish Resilience Project	8,617	
Other Events	1,380	
Salons	888	
Webinars	8,182	3,935
Donations	500	
Interest - Term Deposits	4,533	5,681
TOTAL INCOME	28,186	14,528
EXPENDITURE		
Administrative Expenses	1,985	4,447
Advertising and Marketing	7,759	
Affiliation Fees	3,786	3,689
Employee Benefit Expenses	5,907	11,792
Event Expenses	13,712	9,822
Insurance	1,828	4,608
Project Micha		2,000
Subscriptions	3,384	1,895
Travel Expenses	5,648	395
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	44,009	38,648
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	(15,823)	(24,120)

INCOME STATEMENT

Income

Donut chart showing Income breakdown:

- Events: 71.1%
- Interest: 16.1%
- Section Fees: 11.1%
- Donations: 1.8%

Expenses

Horizontal bar chart showing Expenses breakdown:

- Admin
- Ads & Mktg
- Affil. Fees
- Employees
- Insurance
- Subscriptions
- Travel

<p>Liabilities in 2025 increased due to funds received for the 2025 Program, pending payment to the provider. The \$7,014 liabilities outstanding in 2024, were paid to the ATO and Superannuation funds in this financial year.</p> <p>I thank our auditors, Collins & Co, for their diligent work on our financial statements and Ryk Eksteen, for his patience and support.</p>	BALANCE SHEET	2025		2024	
		\$		\$	
		CURRENT ASSETS			
		Cash and cash equivalents		317,860	
		Trade and other receivables		9,266	
		TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		327,126	
		NON CURRENT ASSETS			
		Property, plant and equipment			
		TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
		TOTAL ASSETS		327,126	
		CURRENT LIABILITIES			
		Trade and other creditors		132,682	
		TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		132,682	
		TOTAL LIABILITIES		132,682	
		NET ASSETS		194,444	
		EQUITY			
		Accumulated funds		194,444	
		TOTAL EQUITY		194,444	



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NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR JEWISH WOMEN OF AUSTRALIA LIMITED
ABN 60 117 655 839

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS

Qualified Opinion

I have audited the accompanying financial report of National Council for Jewish Women of Australia Limited (the Company), which comprises the balance sheet as at 31 March 2025, and the income statement, statement of changes in equity and cash flow statement for the year ended on that date, a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes and the statement by the members of the Committee.

In my opinion, except for the effects of the matter described in the Basis for Qualified Opinion section of my report, the financial report of the Company is in accordance with the Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission Act 2012 and the Corporations Act 2001, including:

- i. giving a true and fair view of the Company's financial position as at 31 March 2025 and of its performance for the year ended; and
- ii. complying with Australian Accounting Standards as per Note 1, the Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission Act 2012 and the Corporations Act 2001.

Basis for Qualified Opinion

As is common in charitable and not-for-profit organisations, it is not practicable for the Company to maintain an effective system of internal control over donations and other voluntary income, until their initial entry into the accounting records. Accordingly, my audit on the Company's income was limited in this regard and therefore I am unable to express an opinion on whether such income including donations and other voluntary income is complete.

I conducted my audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of my report. I am independent of the Company in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the Code) that are relevant to my audit of the financial report in Australia. I have also fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my qualified opinion.

Emphasis of Matter - Basis of Accounting and Restriction on Distribution

I draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist National Council for Jewish Women of Australia Limited to meet the requirements of the Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission Act 2012 and the Corporations Act 2001. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. My opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Report

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of the applicable legislation and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, management is responsible for assessing the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Entity or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Company's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial report.



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- As part of an audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the registered entity's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the responsible entities.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the responsible entities use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the registered entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the registered entity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal controls that I identify during my audit.

Name of Auditor: Frederik R. L. Eksteen

Address: Collins & Co Audit Pty Ltd
127 Paisley Street
Footscray VIC 3011

Date: 6 August 2025

HUMAN RIGHTS

SOCIAL JUSTICE

**THE ADVANCEMENT
OF ALL WOMEN**



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