

Helping Holocaust Survivors



Jewish  Care
You're in good hands



Survivors in Australia

Outside of Israel the Australian Jewish community has the highest proportion of Holocaust Survivors in the world.

Although exact numbers are not possible to determine, between 1938 and 1961 35,000 Jewish migrants came to Australia effectively more than doubling the Jewish population. Many of these refugees were Holocaust Survivors.

JewishCare helping survivors




JewishCare (Australian Jewish Welfare Society as it was originally called) was established in 1936 to help save German Jewry from Nazi persecution. After the War the organisation continued to assist thousands of Jews to settle in Australia and has maintained a commitment to support Survivors.

Claims Conference

The Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, or The Claims Conference, was founded in 1951 to engage the German Government in negotiations for material compensation for Jewish victims of Nazi persecution.

The Claims Conference aims to secure some measure of justice for Jewish victims of Nazi persecution. Its activities include administering compensation funds, recovering unclaimed Jewish property, allocating funds to institutions that provide social welfare services to Holocaust Survivors and preserving the memory and lessons of the Holocaust.

JewishCare works closely with the Claims Conference as well as various governments in Europe to ensure legitimate claims are progressed and appropriate programs maintained. JewishCare also regularly convenes a Holocaust Survivors Advisory Group.




The Claims Conference directly helps to support four JewishCare programs: Home Support, Aged Casework, Russian Community support, Restitution Support.

The Claims Conference is also able to provide emergency assistance to eligible Survivors.

This assistance which aims to help Survivors to remain in their own homes can include the payment of overdue utility bills and medical and dental care which is not covered by insurance and the acquisition of essential medical equipment.

JewishCare provides many other programs that may be of assistance to Survivors. Importantly JewishCare staff and volunteers who are trained and experienced in working with Survivors and dealing with their individual needs.



A Person Centred Approach

JewishCare adopts a Person Centred Care model which places the person at the centre of their own care and considers the needs of the older person. It is a partnership between the client, their family and JewishCare to provide the best possible outcomes.

This approach is favoured by government and peak bodies.

Some of the programs that JewishCare provides for Survivors include:

Home Support

It is the wish of most people to stay in their own homes for as long as possible. JewishCare has a number of options to facilitate this.

Funded Packages of Care

The Claims Conference the Jewish Communal Appeal fund individualised packages of care.

Typical packages of care include the provision of:

- Showering and dressing
- Light housework and domestic cleaning
- Shopping
- Meal preparation
- Laundry
- Transport to appointments
- Socialising and companionship
- Respite for carers
- Advocacy and liaising with other service providers



Holocaust Survivors may access packages from any funder, however only Survivors are eligible to access the TIKVAH packages which are funded by the Claims Conference. Eligibility for these packages includes having also applied for a government-funded package means testing and proof of being in an area of persecution.

Private Home Care

JewishCare also has programs that enable people to purchase the home care or other types of help that they may need.

Case Work

The role of JewishCare's Aged Casework program is to understand each client's circumstances and needs in order to provide the most appropriate services to help them to remain living independently in their own home for as long as possible. These caseworkers take an approach that considers the client's environmental, physical, emotional, psychological and spiritual background and capabilities as well as their current family and domestic circumstances.

The Casework team includes staff who also speak Russian, Romanian, Hebrew and Yiddish.

Who may benefit from Casework?

- Anyone planning for their future or the future of a loved one
- Older people wanting assistance so they are able to continue to live independently and maintain a good quality of life
- Anyone caring for a loved one with dementia. This could involve assistance in developing strategies for managing difficult behaviour, linking with support groups for carers
- Anyone feeling isolated as a result of age and age related infirmity or mental state

Restitution program

JewishCare helps Holocaust Survivors obtain funds from The Claims Conference and various organisations established by governments that were complicit with the Nazi regime. JewishCare operates a liaison service between the client and these organisations and any funds granted go directly to the client.

Although claimants are able to access Application Forms directly from the Internet many applicants choose to use the services of JewishCare. This service is freely available to pensioners.

Each fund has different eligibility criteria, so JewishCare helps clients determine what fund or funds may be relevant to them. Funds include Article 2, Hardship, the BADV and the ZRBG Restitution Funds.

JewishCare's help can include:

- Assisting clients to fill in appropriate form
- Offering advice as to whether a client is eligible for a particular fund
- Providing information regarding the different funds and their eligibility criteria
- Packaging and mailing the application to the appropriate organisation
- Offering a tracking service regarding the progress of a claim
- Informing the client of any changes that occur regarding eligibility criteria
- Interpreting German language documents in some circumstances
- Helping clients formulate an appeal against a rejection when a claim is seen to have merit

Russian Community

JewishCare also provides a Russian Community Development program in Waterloo which helps people from the Former Soviet Union living in the Redfern / Waterloo area to better integrate into their local community. Activities include English language classes, discussions on local issues and regular outings.

Social Communal Opportunities with JewishCare

Links

This program connects Jewish volunteers with older members of our community. The volunteers provide social support to clients who are living at home and may be socially isolated.

This support is usually by way of regular one-on-one activities which may include:

- Home visiting
- Transport to appointments
- Shopping
- Help with correspondence
- Reading
- Playing games eg chess or scrabble
- Going to a movie

The program also includes Family Links in which a family can visit an older isolated person.



Community Club Network

Activity Centres and Friendship Clubs are popular ways for active seniors to meet with their friends and participate in a range of activities.

Our Friendship Clubs are located across Sydney, run by volunteers and supported by JewishCare. Many Clubs operate in conjunction with local synagogues and other community organisations and a number of groups are for Russian speakers.

These Clubs aim to reduce isolation, loneliness and lack of stimulation by providing regular social meetings which provide a sense of belonging, mutual support and cohesiveness amongst members.

The Burger Centre

This is a day program that provides a range of appropriately stimulating structured activities for the frail aged including those with dementia, Parkinsons disease and other aged related conditions. A hot Kosher lunch plus transport is provided to and from the Centre. The Centre is operated as a partnership between JewishCare and Montefiore and is located in Randwick.

The Centre also provides the Positive Ageing program which is aimed at more active older people in the community. The program follows the current trends in healthy ageing and promotes activities that help acquire skills to keep fit including Tai Chi and Hydro-cise.

Where to find JewishCare

Head Office

3 Saber Street Woollahra NSW 2025
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The Burger Centre Randwick

120 King Street Randwick 2031
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(A partnership with Montefiore)

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