

## VICTORIAN DIRECTOR

## Joining the Joint

AJN STAFF

THE Joint Australia has appointed a dedicated Victorian director to establish a more formal presence in the state.



Yael Cass (pictured) will seek to increase the Melbourne Jewish community's engagement with The Joint (aka American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee) and its global humanitarian assistance projects in more than 70 isolated or endangered Jewish communities around the globe.

For seven decades, The Joint has been aiding Jews in peril, and for Cass, there is a personal dimension to her work – her grandparents received assistance from The Joint three quarters of a century ago to purchase land for a new settlement in pre-state Palestine when they fled Bulgaria.

Working with Sydney-based Joint Australia director Caryn Farber, Cass comes to her new role with more than 16 years of management and leadership experience in the business and not-for-profit sectors.

She has lived, worked and volunteered in Israel, Ethiopia, and India, and her life journey led her to invest in an export business in

Ethiopia before she immigrated to Australia almost seven years ago.

Today, with a diverse set of personal and professional connections in place and a wealth of international experience to guide her, she said she is honoured to be chosen to amplify the message of The Joint in Victoria.

“The Joint played a storied role in shaping the Melbourne community so it's fitting that we should be a special part of its future,” said Cass. “There are so many people in Melbourne who are excited to put into action their feeling of global Jewish responsibility.”

Cass is excited about Joint Australia events coming up in Melbourne, including its spring speaking tour from October 22-25 and an open community day on November 18 at the Jewish Museum of Australia.

The speaking tour features Asher Ostrin, one of the world's foremost experts on post-Soviet Jewish life, while the open community day is an opportunity to explore the work being done by The Joint in Jewish communities worldwide, and for members of the public to record their stories on migration.

For more information,  
email [yaelca@jdc.org](mailto:yaelca@jdc.org)  
visit [www.thejointaustralia.org](http://www.thejointaustralia.org)

## PASSING THE PRESIDENTIAL BATON

## New directions for NCJWA

PETER KOHN

APPLYING her extensive experience in the corporate world to the Jewish community, Negba Weiss-Dolev, the new president of the National Council of Jewish Women of Australia (NCJWA), is relishing the challenges ahead.

Ready to roll out the organisation's strategic plan adopted late last year, the Melbourne-based president aims to attract more women in their 20s and 30s to the organisation, but is mindful this demographic wants to create change through the Jewish community rather than just within it.

Through a Young Women's Advisory committee, she plans to recruit new members to the vital task of succession planning for the organisation.

“One of the biggest issues in the Jewish community is succession planning because so many young people don't want to step up ... not just to Jewish organisations -- and that's not because they're not publicly minded, I think the opposite. It's just that they think they want to have an impact on a much bigger scale, not just in the Jewish community, and we want to leverage that,” reflected Weiss-Dolev.

NCJWA is the only Jewish affiliate of the Equal Rights Alliance



Negba Weiss-Dolev (right) with the then state planning minister Matthew Guy at the Jewish Museum of Australia in 2014.

Photo: Peter Haskin

(ERA), an umbrella group of more than 60 women's organisations in Australia and at ERA's recent Canberra convention, Weiss-Dolev found much interest in NCJWA's programs, such as Caring Mums, which partners struggling new mothers with trained volunteer older mothers for guidance.

“We can only lead by example, and it's a very Jewish thing to do – tzedakah, tikkun olam – it comes to us naturally,” she said.

Elected to the NCJWA national board last year, Weiss-Dolev has held senior executive roles in the corporate world and academia, and is a leadership and development consultant to corporations and local government.

“Having worked most of my life in technology, which is a very male

dominated industry, I guess I was frustrated by the dearth of women. I've always coached women and men informally throughout my career ... I just feel very passionate about people stepping up to opportunities,” she said, noting that women in the workplace, particularly younger women, have become more aspirational.

Weiss-Dolev paid tribute to her predecessors, former co-presidents Sylvia Deutsch and Victoria Nadel of Sydney, whose advice she hopes to keep receiving.

As president of the Jewish Museum of Australia from 2009-15, Weiss-Dolev led and oversaw the selection of a new CEO and a strategic rethinking and rebranding of the museum as a leading resource in adult education.

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### Ruben Fried Scholarship Fund Opportunities

The Ruben Fried Scholarship Fund has been established by the Fried and Fraid families through the Spotlight Foundation, a charitable trust that empowers children in community development and education. The Fund is in honour of Ruben Fried who sadly passed away in 2009.

In his memory, the Spotlight Foundation is offering Scholarships to students who are currently in the Government School system and ready to enter High School in 2019. This will give these students the chance to have a Jewish education at Yeshivah – Beth Rivkah Colleges from Years 7 - 12.

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are open  
to students  
entering  
High School  
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31<sup>st</sup> July, 2018

For all information regarding the scholarship please contact  
Michelle Blutman 9522 8222  
[michelle.blutman@ybr.vic.edu.au](mailto:michelle.blutman@ybr.vic.edu.au)

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