



The National Council of Jewish Women of Australia Victoria (NCJWA Vic) was established 93 years ago with the vision of creating a better world for women. Our mission, is to support women at key points across the life cycle, advance their status and promote social cohesion and human rights. NCJWA Vic is dedicated to furthering human welfare in both the Jewish and general communities, locally, nationally and internationally. Through an integrated program of education and social action, we provide essential services while addressing social justice issues. The agenda of NCJWA Vic includes areas of health, empowerment of women, family relationships and education. Equally important is the delivery of services to the more vulnerable communities and individuals.

NCJWA Vic rolled into crisis management determined to continue our mission to support women and girls during this difficult time. Strong and decisive action was taken to keep our people safe and continue serving our community. We quickly adapted most of our program, while participants were incredibly grateful for our continued support, illuminating the need and value of social connection for mental wellbeing throughout our lives, even more so during such a crisis.

During this time, we have conducted a variety of significant events online, in order to bring our supporters, members, volunteers and participants together and maintain a sense of community and connection.

In May, during National Volunteer Week, we ran a 'Thank You' zoom event to acknowledge the generous contribution of our volunteers to the organisation.

In June, we introduced our first virtual BarinFood event, with guest speaker Anna Jacobson - poet, writer, illustrator and photographer. In our second virtual BrainFood event, we hosted Prof. Daphna Hacker, Head of the Women and Gender Studies Program at Tel Aviv University, to discuss the challenges of Coronavirus through Gender Lens:

"As the full impact of the crisis is yet to be felt, testimonies as to its gender-related implications can only offer initial indications, and the much-needed retrospective understanding that offers conclusive and empirically-based insights will be a long time coming. What we do already know, however, is that studies of previous epidemics such as the Ebola and SARS outbreaks have shown them to have significant long-term gender-related implications". (Hacker, 2020).

Recently, we ran virtually the 'Mina Fink lecture', in honour of the late Mina Fink z'l. The lecture takes place yearly and addresses topics relevant to women, education and Israel. We were very fortunate to have as lecturer Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN Women, to talk about her journey as an advocate for women and her thoughts about education as critical component for gender equality achievements. We were also thrilled to have Mina's

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grandson, Mark Regev, Israel's Ambassador to the United Kingdom 2016 to 2020 and a former Advisor to the Israeli Prime Minister, to join us from Israel and talk about his grandmother. This special event was facilitated by Rebecca Davis, Features Editor of The Australian Jewish News.

Lastly, we are holding soon, in 12 August, our first inaugural Gender Equality Webinar: 'Gender Equality: Tips, Hurdles and Successes', with guest speakers Cameron McLeod (General Manager, Community Engagement, North Melbourne Football Club (NMFC), Jennifer Huppert (President of the Jewish Community Council of Victoria (JCCV), and Annette Charak (President of Shira Hadasha). This webinar is part of the #MakeSpaceForHer campaign and will launch our Gender Equality Community of Practice, an ongoing regular informative and interactive forum in which organisational leaders and change makers can learn from each others' experiences, lessons, hurdles and successes in gender equality.

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