

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT – VOLUNTEER SURGE

Over the past six weeks, the Victorian Jewish Community has seen an extraordinary number of individuals stepping forward to volunteer their time and resources to support our community. Emerging volunteers are a fundamental element of the community-led crisis management landscape. They bolster continuity and build our collective resilience.

Giving is what makes a nation great.

** Rabbi Jonathan Sacks*

Jewish Community Crisis Management (**JCCM**) has been working to establish a professional platform, to facilitate volunteer surge across the Victorian Jewish Community. This initiative is designed to transition our existing social capital into meaningful collaboration, via a centralised mechanism.

From Tuesday 21 November 2023, a community-wide Volunteer Surge Program will launch on our website.

The platform will connect Victorian community organisations with new volunteers, across a wide range of services and initiatives.



How does it work?

Volunteer Opportunities

The JCCM Volunteer Surge Program will only accept volunteering opportunities that are designed to benefit the resilience and empowerment of the Victorian Jewish Community. The platform will not accept any fundraising requests. It will also not accept any paid opportunities.

Community Organisations



To access the Volunteer Surge Program as a community organisation:

1. Nominate an individual/s authorised to create a profile on behalf of the Organisation.
2. Create a profile by going to www.jccm.org.au.
3. Click the 'Log In' button on the home page. 
4. Select 'Community Organisation' and complete the form. 
5. The Organisation must read and agree to the 'Surge Program Organisations Terms of Use'.
6. For security purposes, all Organisation profiles will be reviewed to establish legitimacy.
7. Reviews will occur within two (2) business days.
8. Once approved, the Organisation will receive a confirmation email.
9. To submit a request for volunteers, login to your profile on www.jccm.org.au.
10. Select the 'Add New Opportunity' button on the 'Volunteer Listings' page (now active on your profile) and complete the form.
11. Active listings will be managed via this page also.
12. Each New Opportunity will be reviewed within two (2) business days.
13. Once accepted, a confirmation email will be sent to the nominated address, stating that the request has been published to the 'Volunteer Opportunities Board', for prospective volunteers to access.

All volunteer applications will be sent directly to the organisation at the nominated email address.

Volunteers

To access the Volunteer Surge Program as a Volunteer:

1. Create a profile by going to www.jccm.org.au.
2. Click the 'Log In' button on the home page. 
3. Select 'Individual Community Member'. 
4. Complete the form. Note that as part of the application, individuals will be asked to provide a copy of their government issued photo ID (for example a drivers' license), and details for two community referees, to establish identity.
5. You must read and agree to the 'Surge Program Volunteers Terms of Use'.
6. Applications will be reviewed within five (5) business days.
7. A confirmation email will be sent to you once your application has been reviewed. You will now be able to access the 'Volunteer Opportunities Board' from the main menu bar at the top of all pages.
8. To see current volunteer opportunities, login to your profile on www.jccm.org.au.
9. From the 'Volunteer Opportunities Board' you can see and apply to opportunities that interest you.
10. All applications are provided directly to the relevant organisation, who will manage the process from that point.

Mental Health First Aid

Jewish Care Victoria will be providing a Mental Health First Aid module for all volunteers who come through the JCCM Volunteer Surge Program. The module will run twice-weekly from Tuesday 28 November. They have been purpose designed around trauma-informed practice for volunteers, looking at:

- why the current situation is so challenging and the biological/psychological basis for that;
- what community members might be experiencing in themselves or seeing in others right now;
- how this might present in behaviour/interactions in the course of volunteering;
- some basic principles for providing a supportive response;
- who is particularly vulnerable to the impacts and may therefore require additional support;
- signs of deteriorating mental health/that further support is required;
- examples of different support options;
- strategies for self-care/monitoring/wellbeing/management of vicarious trauma for volunteers.

* [*The Jewish Community Could Not Exist for a Day Without its Volunteers*](#), Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, 29 October 2012