



## **HADASSAH AUSTRALIA**

### **(HADASSAH CHARITY LIMITED ABN 63 612 863 064)**

### **2019 YEAR IN REVIEW**

#### **THE YEAR THAT WAS...**

2019 was a year of enthusiasm and commitment to ongoing and new projects and activities to support Hadassah Medical Organization in its vision to shape the future of Jerusalem, Israel and the global community.

The mission of Healing, Teaching and Research powers the work of all those aiming to improve the lives of mankind above and beyond politics, religion and national boundaries.

With thanks to the Hadassah Australia Board – Philip Zajac, Julian Gillis and Lynda Brest, the staff and volunteers who untiringly work to keep our community informed and engaged with Hadassah's progress, we look forward to expanding our projects in the coming year to deliver benefits to an institution whose medical, humanitarian and community outreach indeed makes Hadassah more than a hospital.

This Report outlines Hadassah Australia's 2019 impact and achievements through the projects and campaigns supporting Hadassah's role in the community, local and national, that continues to be felt on many fronts.

Ron Finkel AM  
President Hadassah Australia



Ron Finkel AM President Hadassah Australia

## 2019 HADASSAH AUSTRALIA ACHIEVEMENTS: PROJECTS AND CAMPAIGNS

### MEDICAL RESEARCH – LAUNCH OF HAMRC



Hadassah is responsible for almost 50% of all clinical research in Israel. Its researchers have been working on cures and treatments for diseases including cancer, kidney disease, MS, MND, macular degeneration and diabetes. They are also leading the advance on cell therapy, regenerative medicine, immunotherapy, ophthalmology, molecular biology and imaging, genomic studies, orthopaedics and medical devices.

With an eye to augmenting our support for Hadassah's research, we celebrated a milestone in 2019 with the launch of Hadassah Australia Medical Research and Collaborations Foundation Limited (HAMRC) as a DGR-1 charity. Its sole focus is on the promotion of medical research at Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem and medical research collaborations between Hadassah researchers and Australian research institutions.

Through its work, HAMRC will support HMO to:

- Provide world class health care
- Promote excellence in research
- Promote excellence in teaching
- Be a bridge to peace through health
- Promote commitment to community and worldwide medical outreach

The HAMRC is led by Chair Dr Errol Katz, and a board comprising senior executive leaders from Australian business, medical, health-sciences and biotechnology organisations, including Scientific Advisory Chair Dr Russell Basser, Directors Prof Sharon Lewin, Dr Phillip Brenner, Ron Finkel AM, Alan Liddle, Lynda Brest and Chair of the Development Committee Dug Pomeroy.

The board oversees HAMRC's mission including the assessment and funding of high-quality medical research collaborations with Hadassah which will ultimately lead to improve patient outcomes by accelerating the pace of biomedical discovery and the translation of medical breakthroughs into novel therapeutics and diagnostics.

HAMRC believes research collaborations between Hadassah and Australia's researchers can address the gaps in domestic and international healthcare, rapidly advance treatments, and design new preventive models for diseases.

In the next 12 months:

- HAMRC will be championing international research to cure the most intractable diseases and is working with researchers in Australia and at Hadassah to prepare appropriate projects for bringing to the Australian public for support.

### ETHIOPIAN NURSING SCHOLARSHIPS

Helping close the circle on the promise of a better life for young Ethiopian-Israelis and increasing the number of desperately needed nurses in Israeli hospitals, Hadassah Australia is supporting a wonderful initiative called

Achotenu (“our nurse, our sister”), piloted in 2016 and providing nursing scholarships for young Ethiopian-Israelis.



A group of trainee-Ethiopian-Israeli nurses in the program

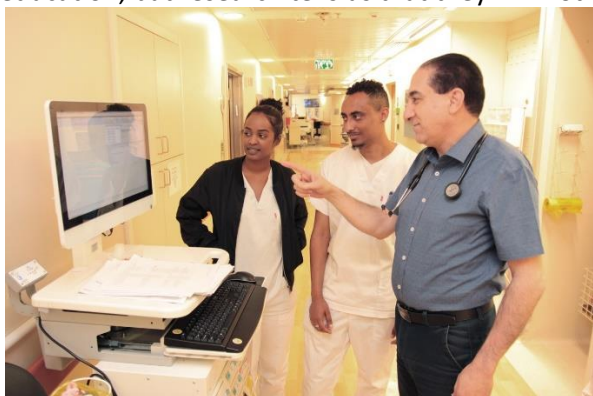
Israel has the lowest nurse-to-population ratio of all OECD countries. It urgently needs an additional 1,000 nurses to provide effective healthcare to the people of Israel. Our program is solving two problems at the same time: providing a pathway for a wonderful career for the individual nurses and encouraging a whole community towards a better life.

The program allows young Ethiopian-Israelis to enrol in a Bachelor of Science in Nursing program at the Hadassah Henrietta Szold-Hebrew University School of Nursing, bypassing the normally requisite psychometric exam. The culturally-biased entry hurdle has been an impediment to students from Ethiopian and other marginalised communities to be accepted into university studies. Replacing the psychometric test there is an alternative pathway program to ensure that important competencies for nursing are thoroughly addressed and assessed in a preparatory year, thereby qualifying students for entry into the degree program.

During the five-year student journey, the Hadassah Ethiopian Nursing Scholarship provides 360 degrees of support, setting the student up for academic and personal success. This includes:

- full tuition
- college accommodation
- monthly living stipend
- specially tailored curriculum
- personal tuition
- individual and group counselling

Many young beneficiaries of these nursing scholarships may be the first in their family to receive a tertiary education, but research tells us that they will not be the last.



Hadassah doctor with two students

In the next 12 months:

- Hadassah Australia will work in collaboration with other organisations to ensure that new cohorts of up to 20 Ethiopian-Israelis each year will be supported for their entire five-year studies.

## **JERUSALEM CRISIS INTERVENTION CENTER (JCIC)**

Children in Jerusalem live with the constant threat of terror as well as living in a city with an unacceptably high incidence of crime, family violence, sexual abuse, and alcohol and drug abuse. Hadassah’s JCIC is there to help, being a world leader in providing psychological support to children suffering from PTSD and other trauma-related issues.

The JCIC owes its continued existence to the efforts of Australian donors who remain the largest non-government funders.



Prof Esti Galii-Weisstub, Director of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry Hadassah – Director JCIC

In the past 12 months, the JCIC has:

- Run workshops for parents to help improve the resilience of children exposed to traumatic events. This has seen an improvement in parent’s competencies.
- Trained mental health professionals in regional centres to make them self-sufficient.
- Trained social workers from across East Jerusalem to treat children with behavioural problems, who are considered ‘at risk’ of committing crime and becoming radicalised.

In the next 12 months:

- Hadassah Australia will continue to support JCIC’s training and workshops for professionals and parents.

## **GOSHEN**

The Goshen initiative for improving child healthcare in Israel was developed in 2015, with a recognition that paediatrics in Israel is not equipped to address children’s health and wellbeing in a holistic way. The fragmented healthcare system and paediatricians are relatively ill-equipped to deal with common problems such as attention deficit disorders, developmental delays or frequent behavioural issues – and more serious problems like autism spectrum disorders.



Prof Frank Oberklaid, founder of Goshen

Based on the work of Professor Frank Oberklaid of Melbourne’s Royal Children’s Hospital, the Goshen program is filling this gap and training specialists in the early intervention of underlying psychosocial childhood disorders, so that children can grow to become emotionally and socially well-adjusted, and become productive members of society. Training has included three Community Paediatric

Fellowships at the Royal Children's Hospital, seminars, residencies and workshops for doctors. The Fellows are now all back in Israel and playing integral roles in Goshen programs.



Dr Dafna Idan and Dr Maya Ya'ari at the end of their fellowships with Prof Frank Oberklaid

In the past 12 months, Goshen has:

- Developed and delivered paediatric training and continuous medical education courses in developmental-behavioural paediatrics for practising paediatricians working in community clinics and maternal health centres
- Developed and delivered workshops for parents and for staff at Maternal and Child Health Centres, as well as health and well-being toolkits for parents and educational staff.
- Sent two Israeli paediatricians to Australia to train with Prof Oberklaid's team.
- Improved and enriched the *Eich Gadalta* website (based on Australia's Raising Children Network website), with increased visitors and Facebook followers.

In the next 12 months, Hadassah Australia will support Goshen's plans to:

- Establish additional Goshen centres in the south and north of Israel
- Train more paediatricians
- Undertake research
- Lobby the Knesset to increase government responsibility of intervention and prevention of childhood disorders.

## MEDICAL CLOWNS

Hadassah's medical clowns help children to feel more at ease and less fearful about their hospital experience. This makes it easier for medical staff to provide their services, freeing up time to perform other essential tasks.



Dush, Hadassah's head clown

Hadassah's Head of Paediatrics Professor Eitan Kerem said, "I have witnessed time and again the medical clown's ability to reduce anxiety and stress in children, both before and during procedures. In many cases, medical clowns help children avoid sedation before undergoing procedures. I cannot stress enough, the importance of this program and its continued support."

Hadassah's medical clown program is entirely reliant upon donations.

In the past 12 months:

- Hadassah Australia's contribution to the medical clown program has resulted in an increase of hours of clowning per clown per week. This has assisted children in clinics and those undergoing surgery.
- In March, medical clowns delivered Mishloach Manot (Purim parcels) to children on the wards as part of a Purim campaign funded by Hadassah Australia.



Clowns at Hadassah delivering joy and mishloach manot

- The second Purim partnership with Starlight Children's Foundation in Sydney and Melbourne Children's hospitals delivered Mishloach Manot and provided Purim entertainment to sick children and families.



Hadassah's Ron Finkel and Ruth Rosen with the Monash Children's Starlight Captains

In the next 12 months:

- Hadassah Australia plans to raise funds to consolidate and further increase the number of hours that medical clowns can spend in the emergency room, outpatient clinics and intensive care unit.

## Key Visits

- **May 2019**

### **Prof Esti Galili-Weisstub, Director Children and Adolescent Psychiatry, Hadassah Hospital**

Professor Esti Galili-Weisstub is one of the world's pre-eminent specialists in the treatment of child and adolescent mental trauma victims of terror and is the head of Hadassah Hospital's Jerusalem Crisis Intervention Center – a walk in clinic for children and adolescent victims of mental trauma.



Prof Esti Galili-Weisstub presenting on treating PTSD

On a visit to Australia in May, just a matter of weeks after terrorists in Gaza sent more than 400 rockets into Israel, Esti gratefully acknowledged the amazing support for the JCIC walk-in trauma centre which, through the agency of Hadassah Australia, is their largest non-government funding source.

Through public lectures in Melbourne and Sydney titled *Terror. Trauma. Transformation*, Esti shared her vast experience of life-threatening events and post-traumatic stress disorder and provided the audience with positive approaches to the most effective ways of dealing with significant trauma. Her mission is to train the next generation of psychiatrists, psychologists and social workers at Hadassah and around the world to significantly improve the health and well-being of children and adolescents suffering from early stage post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and psychological stress.

- **November 2019**

**Rabbi Yosef Zvi Rimon, Founder of Ahotenu, was a guest of Mizrahi and visited Melbourne and Sydney in November.**

An acclaimed rabbi, Torah scholar and educator, Rav Yosef Zvi Rimon and his assistant Gilad Cohen visited Hadassah in November and held warm discussions about community education initiatives and his breakthrough approach that led to the establishment of the Achoteinu-Hadassah partnership for Ethiopian Nursing scholarships.



Gilad Cohen LaOfek, Eric Cheng Hadassah, Rabbi Rimon LaOfek, Ruth Rosen - Hadassah

For Hadassah Australia, Rav Rimon's vision of a different education pathway has given expression to the dream of the Ethiopian-Israelis for a better life, a way to build their own and their community's future. At the same time it is giving back to Israel by boosting much-needed nursing numbers. Rav Rimon was delighted that Hadassah's Ethiopian Nursing Scholarship campaign will forge closer ties between Australia's Jewish community and the Ethiopian community and he thanked Hadassah Australia for acknowledging the importance of the program.

- **December 2019**

**Dr Dvora Bauman – Director of Hadassah's Bat Ami Center for Victims of Violence and Sexual Abuse and a senior obstetrician-gynaecologist at Hadassah Hospital's Ein Kerem campus.**

Dr Bauman was in Australia to present at the World Congress of Paediatric and Adolescent Gynaecology and spent time with Hadassah Australia to discuss her work.

The shocking reality of sexual abuse and violence in Israel was the theme of Dr Dvora Bauman's talk to members and friends of Hadassah Australia during her recent visit.



L-R Debbie Strauch Eva Rutman Leon Strauch Dr Dvora Bauman Lynda Brest Yehudis Krasianski

Dvora shared stories of survivors of sexual abuse and violence that her team at Bat Ami have treated since the centre was established in 2009. Hadassah Australia donated an advanced colposcopy system to Bat Ami following the visit to Australia in 2018 of Dr Mushira Aboo Dia, a specialist obstetrician and gynaecologist at Hadassah and Bat Ami. The colposcope is critically-important to the work of Bat Ami, vastly improving the medical examination procedure required for survivors of rape and violence to securely document forensic evidence should they wish to pursue justice in courts.



Ruth Rosen- Hadassah Australia and Dr Dvora Bauman with the new colposcope at Bat Ami – Hadassah Hospital

## **INTO THE FUTURE**

### **REHABILITATION CENTER – MT SCOPUS**

Hadassah's impact in the community, local and national, continues to be felt on many fronts. A momentous decision was made by Hadassah to address a pressing demand for a world-class rehabilitation centre in Jerusalem, a city of 820,000 residents with more than its fair share of patients in need of critical and acute rehabilitation care – wounded soldiers, terror victims, stroke patients, motor vehicle accident victims and geriatric patients recovering from major injury following falls.

Within three years Jerusalem residents will have access to a state-of-the-art rehabilitation facility at Mount Scopus. This first of its kind in the city is a joint initiative of Hadassah and the Government of Israel and we are proud to be an active partner in the fundraising for this unique facility.





Architect's vision of the new Rehabilitation Center at Mt Scopus

## THANKS TO YOU

This has been an exciting and eventful year for Hadassah Australia. and we thank you for being part of our journey.

We invite you to continue assisting us on this vitally important mission to support Hadassah Hospital and its wonderful projects and programs. All of our projects need funding – your donation will make a difference where it matters.

Deeply rooted in a love for Israel and its people, we live by the mission and vision of Hadassah to provide the highest health care standards, research, scholarship and practices in Israel and be a bridge to peace, forging links between peoples of all nationalities, races and religion who come to its doors for healing.

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