

Australian Jewish Welfare Society

1936 – 2001

- Other Names:**
- Jewish Community Services
 - AJWS
 - Australian Jewish Welfare and Relief Society

Details

The Australian Jewish Welfare Society (AJWS) was established in 1936, primarily as a support agency for Jewish pre-war and post-war migrants. Some Jewish children fleeing the Nazis in Germany and Austria immigrated to Australia, some being cared for at Frances Barkman House in Balwyn, Victoria. In 2001 the Australian Jewish Welfare Society was renamed Jewish Care after a merger with Montefiore Homes.

The Minute Books of the Australian Jewish Welfare Society from 1939 contain information about the running of Frances Barkman House and its residents and staff. Extracts from the minute books are published in the history by Rodney Benjamin, entitled *A Serious Influx of Jews: A History of Jewish Welfare in Victoria*.

The Australian Jewish Welfare Society was mentioned in the *Commonwealth Contribution to Former Forced Adoption Policies and Practices Inquiry* (2012) as an organisation that was involved in forced adoption.

Gallery



Children in the Frances Barkman House

Description: Caption reads, 'Jewish children eat together in the dining room of the Frances Barkman House, one of Australia's many hostels that took in Jewish war refugees.'

More info

Chronology

- **Australian Jewish Welfare Society (1936 – 2001)**
 - Jewish Care (Victoria) Inc. (2001 - current)

Related Entries

Ran

- [Frances Barkman Homes \(c. 1939 - c. 1992\)](#)

Related Events

- [Inquiry into Commonwealth Contribution to Former Forced Adoption Policies and Practices, Commonwealth of Australia \(2011 - 2012\)](#)

The Australian Jewish Welfare Society is mentioned in submission 113 to the Inquiry Committee as an organisation that was involved in forced adoption.

Resources

- Horin, Leonie, [Submission no 331 to the Senate Inquiry into Children in Institutional Care](#), 2005
 - [Frances Barkman House, Group Homes \(1939-c.1985\)](#), Finding Records, No date
 - Kohn, P., [Jewish Care Victoria probes claims of historic child abuse](#), The Australian Jewish News, 14 November 2013
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