



The largest welfare
organisation in Israel

WIZO NSW Inc.

Women's International Zionist Organisation
Consultative status on ECOSOC and UNICEF at the United Nations

WIZO AGM AGM

President Report

2021 Zoom

I am pleased to bring the Presidents Report.

Your being with us tonight us proves once again how much WIZO is loved by so many of us. How much we value friendship, caring for others and kinship.

Until a year ago, our family, social, professional and cultural lives were based on being physically together. And even though Zoom existed before Corona, nobody would have thought of holding AGM's this way. Because even in the age of the internet and social media, real human connectivity meant being together.

It is hard to believe that it was a year since our last AGM ZOOM - so much has happened but the end is now in sight.

But some things will never change: our love for Israel, our passionate commitment to WIZO, and the profound sense of solidarity and sisterhood that we all feel. No virus, no pandemic, no crisis can change that.

As most of you are aware, WIZO Australia took on the renovation of the Jonas Dormitory at Ahuzat Yeladim, our flagship project. It has been a two year project because the



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dormitory was in such a bad state. The most troubled young boys in Haifa, were living in conditions that the local council deemed to be unfit for any young child, a child that needs to grow and develop – a child that needs to feel secure, have a bedroom that he can feel safe in, an area to be with friends, and counselors. Closure was just months away. The boys had nowhere to go...

All of you on this zoom tonight, and many other donors from around Australia are the very people that made this dream a reality. We asked for your support, and you all stepped up. You donated you pledged and you gave from your heart. With that in mind I can report that WIZO NSW ALONE SENT over \$750,000 for this project.

I just want to say how much we appreciate your dedication, generosity and solidarity.

Our membership campaign is underway, and I am very pleased to tell you that as of tonight, we have over 934 paid members.

Two weeks ago I was privileged to attend the mini-meeting of Representatives on zoom with 36 other Federations from around the world. It was very clear to all delegates that as Israel's second largest welfare arm (Israeli Government being the first), we have an enormous job to do, worldwide. Even more so now, in these Covid times

WIZO is responsible for at all of our projects, with all that entails: the daily upkeep and the constant upgrades. The lists



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are always endless, there is always something to improve or refurbish, something to purchase and something to supplement.

Our Sponsor A Child Campaign continues to go from strength to strength thanks to you – and despite the global pandemic, the number of children who need our care, grows too – from the tiniest babies who are given a warm and loving environment at our day care centre's, hot meals, clean clothes, often a shower and definitely love and hugs from our incredible team....to teenage girls who are on the streets in Beer Sheva devoid of hope or plans for a better future, and who now, because of YOUR generosity, have Makom Balev as a savior, a place to go to be safe. We are helping by providing counselors, social workers, basic health education, a safe place to eat, shower and sleep – everything we can do to help these young, beautiful women and children back on the right track.

It was Helen Keller, one of history's most extraordinary women, who said "alone we can do so little, together we can do so much".

What we have right here in Sydney, and all around Australia, is a strength and vibrancy that is unparalleled. We stuck together in the toughest times, we supported our children, grandchildren and extended families, we asked if they were ok. We really are true WIZO women. You have heard our appeals for your support and we have made it clear how critical the funds you raise for our projects and how much we appreciate your dedication, generosity and solidarity.



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Our lives are blessed, and we have a purpose. We are WIZO women and our bond is strong. We share a heritage and the belief that **together** we have the power to make an enormous difference on the ground, in Israel.

I am so excited to announce that a new program has been introduced to WIZO to ensure the succession of this organisation.

Six young women have been invited to join the board as observers. Each woman is an active committee member of WIZO Chai, our youngest group. The women are:

Miki Hendler

Kira Brandt

Terry Benda

Olivia Templeman

Lisa Salkinder

Olivia Zeh

Each of these incredible young women stand out in their own unique way – and we feel most grateful that they have agreed to join us!

The intention is that after spending the year observing and working with the board that they will hopefully want to join as a full voting members.



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Welcome to you all, we are so excited to have you on this WIZO journey with us. Looking forward to your innovative, inspiring and fresh ideas.

To let you know just how passionate the girls are, just this last Sunday.....WIZO Chai hosted an afternoon with an amazing chef – it was wonderful to see the room filled with young vibrant women, all coming together to learn to cook, to learn about WIZO, to show their support.

As we are now almost at the end of our AGM, It is our tradition to launch the Sponsor A Child Campaign 2021, and it really is the most important campaign ever.

We are dedicating the funds raised to the most vulnerable children in Israel who have been hit the hardest on so many levels. And from what we have heard tonight from our keynote speakers, our focus is totally validated. Children who need attention, education, therapy, a safe environment and nourishment.

As much as we would like to think this isn't happening, we cannot MASK the fact that IT IS happening. Right now. On the ground.

You will be receiving your SAC letter in the next few days,.



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The Children need you now, more than ever.....

To everyone who has participated this evening and to all our WIZO members across the state A HUGE AND HEARTFELT THANK YOU for your unwavering support and your friendship, in good times and in bad.

It is very important for me at this time, to thank from the bottom of my heart the unfailing support, dedication, ethic, efficiency, responsibility and continued hard work of our Office Team. Lorna and Hagit run our office like clockwork and nothing is too much. I appreciate the mentoring and assistance of previous Presidents before me who will always give me their time and counsel when required. To my board and executive a heartfelt thank you for all you do.

All of WIZO's achievements in the past year: our survival, our adaptation, our growth, change and innovation, were only possible because of our unity of purpose and action. Our sense of common destiny and our solidarity as an organisation and movement.

Thank you.