

A management system framework for UPJ member organisations

Background

For years UPJ member congregations have, from time to time, turned to the UPJ for assistance in understanding and complying with legislation relevant to them and building management systems that contain appropriate policies.

This project was carried out to fill this gap. In the year that it took to complete congregations have been surveyed to gauge if there was a genuine need, ascertain what is already available, and make sure that congregations that already have systems are prepared to share.

The outcome of the survey clearly showed that there is a need for such a resource, that several congregations have outstanding systems and / or system elements and many of them are prepared to share.

Why is it important?

Compliance with Federal and State legislation was one of the key drivers of the initiative. Congregations have a legal responsibility to ensure that they comply with legislation that covers issues ranging from tax and other financial requirements through child protection to privacy and many more.

The best way to make sure that any organisation, be it commercial or not-for-profit, meets all these and other obligations is to provide it with a simple and comprehensive management system that contains the appropriate policies, processes and procedures.

Whilst some UPJ constituents already have such a system, others may need to update what they have and/or introduce new elements. A key principle of this project was to reduce the need to 're-invent the wheel' and encourage the sharing of good practices.

How can this project help?

During discussions at various UPJ forums a number of Constituents have asked for help with the development of corporate management strategies, risk management initiatives and 'model' policies and procedures that are relevant to the Synagogue environment.

The project delivers a resource that, if Synagogues wish to adopt it, can help with legal compliance and provide a framework for good / better management practices based on Jewish as well as universal values.

What is available to congregations and how can it be accessed?

The outcome of the project was presented at the Melbourne Biennial conference in November 2018. The presentation and supporting documentation are available from the UPJ office. The document also explains how the support will work and what further assistance can be made available.

If you would like to have access to the documentation and/or other assistance, please contact Jocelyn Robuck at the UPJ office and she will facilitate the process.