

AROUND THE COMMUNITY

JNF AUSTRALIA

Natasha Hausdorff to headline JNF Australia's annual campaign

JNF Australia is launching its 2026 annual campaign with a clear focus on the future – supporting one of the country's ambitious regional recovery initiatives while welcoming internationally acclaimed human rights lawyer Natasha Hausdorff as keynote speaker.

Hausdorff, one of the world's leading legal advocates for Israel, will speak in Sydney, Melbourne and Perth this September. A London-based barrister, she is renowned for bringing clarity and legal expertise to the international conversation on Israel, regularly appearing on various media outlets, podcasts and political debates, addressing governments, parliaments and the United Nations. Her visit comes at a pivotal time as JNF Australia celebrates its 125th anniversary under the campaign theme "For a Stronger Israel. Yesterday. Today. Tomorrow."

"Natasha brings a voice of truth, courage and integrity to the global conversation," said JNF Australia CEO Doron Lazarus. "As we celebrate 125 years of building Israel, we are also looking ahead. Our mission has always

been to invest in Israel's future, and this year's campaign reflects that commitment."

Founded in 1901 following the vision of Theodor Herzl and the World Zionist Organization, KKL-JNF has played a central role in shaping modern Israel. From transforming barren landscapes and developing vital water infrastructure to establishing forests, parks and communities, its work has always focused on long-term nation-building.

For generations, Australian supporters have been part of that story. Today, JNF Australia is investing in what it believes will become one of Israel's most significant long-term recovery projects: the Sha'ar HaNegev Community Village.

A groundbreaking regional recovery initiative, it was established in the aftermath of the October 7 attacks to meet the unprecedented physical, emotional and social needs of communities across Israel's Gaza border region.

Located in the Ibim, just minutes from many of the communities most affected, the village will become the permanent home for the resilience and therapeutic services already supporting the region. Rather than operating as a collection of separate programs, it will bring them together on a purpose-built campus, enabling coordinated, long-term care under one roof.

Spanning approximately six hectares, the village forms part of what is set to become the world's first centre dedicated to continuous trauma recovery – a place where treatment, community wellbeing, professional education and research work side by side.

The vision is not simply to help communities recover from October 7, but to establish an international model for responding to trauma, strengthening resilience and rebuilding communities following crisis.

The village is expected to support more than 20,000 people each year and serve as the regional hub for over 30 communities across the Western Negev.

Its integrated approach is built around three pillars – Treatment, Community and Training.

The Treatment Centre will provide trauma and mental health services, family and bereavement support, social services, crisis intervention and complementary body-mind therapies. Community spaces will host cultural activities, educational programs and social initiatives designed to rebuild connection, belonging and resilience. A dedicated Training and Research Centre will equip professionals with leading expertise in trauma recovery, while developing new models that can benefit communities in Israel and around

the world. "In traumatic situations, all the pieces fall apart – individuals, families and communities," said Nadav Peretz, CEO of the Sha'ar HaNegev Community Centre. "People need support, connection, belonging and safety."

The community village will allow us to provide all of these in one place and accompany people through every stage of recovery." By providing permanent infrastructure for these services, the village will ensure that families have access to continuous care close to home, while strengthening the region's capacity to respond to future challenges.

Lazarus said the project embodies the philosophy that has guided JNF for 125 years.

"Our role has never been simply to respond to immediate needs," he said. "It has always been to create the foundations for a stronger future. The Sha'ar HaNegev Community Village is an investment in Israel's long-term resilience, ensuring the people of the western Negev have the support, infrastructure and opportunities they need to rebuild stronger than before."

To book your place at JNF Australia's annual campaign launch, go to <https://jnf.org.au/events/>

To learn more and support the project: <https://jnf.org.au/ac2026/>



Images of Sha'ar Hanegev communities (photos by Yakir Assido)