

Generations meet at Emmy

Bridging the Gap, an Emmy Monash program, is drawing acclaim.

FOR the second year running, Emmy Monash Aged Care has been selected as a top-five finalist for an international industry award.

The intergenerational Bridging the Gap program has been shortlisted as a finalist in the Best Active Ageing Program category in the 2016 Asia Pacific Eldercare Innovation Awards held in Singapore.

Bridging the Gap was recognised as a leading positive ageing program which encourages reciprocal learning, enhances holistic wellness, breaks down negative stereotypes of ageing and promotes positive collaborative energy.

The Bridging the Gap program was one of only five shortlisted in this category from over 100 nominations by the Ageing Asia judging committee.

Partnering with Mount Scopus Memorial College, Bridging the Gap, an intergenerational program, creates opportunities for residents to connect with youth in meaningful ways, and redefines the students' perception of seniors as a result.

Stimulating and engaging activities such as debates, exercise classes and cultural programs enrich the aged care experience.

Now in its fifth year, the Bridging the Gap program has resulted in lasting bonds made between students and seniors as they engage through exercise, discussions and Jewish festival celebrations.

Intergenerational engagement is also fostered through student community service placements, in the Emmy Monash pain management clinic and lifestyle programs, as well



A volunteer serves challah to an Emmy Monash resident.

as many other programs that create involvement and promote meaningful dialogue between seniors and youth.

Bialik College students join Emmy Monash staff and volunteers every Friday in an intergenerational program, called *Shabbat Meuchad (Special Shabbat)*. The students assist in numerous activities including plating food, setting tables, arranging flowers and engaging in conversation, making a significant contribution to the Shabbat atmosphere at Emmy Monash.

The monthly emMYkids program

connects mothers and grandmothers with their youngest family members. Emmy residents love interacting with the babies and toddlers through play and music, and share a special bond.

Involvement with the Jewish community is ongoing and integral to life at Emmy Monash. The opening of Gandel House at Emmy Monash will offer a range of internal and garden areas for residents and the community to enjoy.

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A walk and a chat help in Bridging the Gap.