

LEXI KOWAL

BUDDING COMMUNAL STALWART

UPON graduating high school I found myself searching for an opportunity to contribute to the community through advocacy and engagement. I quickly found my home and passion in the Australasian Union of Jewish students, and in 2017 became the AUJS national vice-chairperson. Now as board director for AUJS, honorary secretary of the Zionism Victoria board, and volunteer for the National Council of Jewish Women of Australia (Vic) board, Victorian Liberal Friends of Israel and Caulfield Young Liberals – I am continuously amazed by the opportunities available to those willing to put their hand up in the community, and scope for change and contribution to a broader desire for the community to strive and thrive.

As my grandparents were persecuted for merely belonging to the Jewish people, I find myself consistently reminded that it is the Jewish people's sense of unity and determination to endure and thrive, that have permitted our survival. This remains the driving force for me, the desire to ensure that the voice of the community remains strong,



prominent and always heard – a mission for which I intend on dedicating both my professional career, and personal time, for years to come.

I have always been inspired by individuals who make decisions that are consistent with their high standards of ethics and integrity and exhibit courage and fortitude even when their decisions may not be popular. In this light, I have been privileged to have inspirational mentors, including Sharene Hambur, Kate Ashmor and David Southwick, to name a few, who have guided me in finding opportunities to allow for contribution to the community.