

## **PAULETTE CHERNY OAM – AUSTRALIA**

For over 50 years I've been involved in WIZO and have loved and learned from my involvement until today - WIZO is in my DNA. I have been married to Ernie Cherny for 60 years and have 3 children and 5 amazing grandchildren.

- 1972 I formed a young group, WIZO Masada, currently the largest group in Australia. Holding the position of President for four years, I continue to be a mentor.
- I was then elected to the WIZO Victoria Executive and spent many years, learning and working with women who set a selfless example of what it means to be a WIZO woman.
- 2002, I became President of WIZO Victoria. During my 6 years, I instigated many new initiatives.
- 2008 I was honored with a Rebecca Sieff award.
- 2016 I was elected President of WIZO Australia for a 6-year term, retiring in May 2022. Despite gaining tax deductibility, we were impacted by COVID. Wonderful women supported me, without whom I could not have done it.
- I have attended many WIZO & WIZO Aviv Conferences. The most memorable, the AVIV Conference in 1989 where 400 WIZO women, from around the world, travelled to Paris and Poland. An experience that will stay with me forever.
- The 2020 EGM, celebrating 100 years of WIZO was absolutely fabulous where I led a group of approximately 45 Australian WIZO women on a tour of Israel.
- 26 January 2020 I was honored with an OAM (Order of Australia Medal) by Queen Elizabeth II for services to the Jewish and general community.
- Currently I serve on the executives of WIZO Australia, Victoria and Masada and will proudly continue as long as I am able.
- Thank you WIZO for this fabulous WIZO life, I have learned so much and been embraced by so many.