



press clip

Israeli know-how benefitting Australia

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ISRAELI know-how is helping some of Australia's brightest minds become even brighter.

Last week, business and community figures attended a function in Sydney to celebrate the five-year-old Yachad program, a scholarship for Australians to study an area that is relevant to Australia in Israel.

Yachad-Hadassah scholar Anthony Grabs, director of trauma services at Sydney's St Vincent's Hospital, spent his time observing and working with the emergency medical team at Jerusalem's Hadassah Hospital in June 2009.

Grabs was full of praise for the work ethic and passion of the Israeli doctors he met. "All the Israelis are

working together for the complete care of trauma patients," he said.

"As a surgeon, I felt really intimidated by the fact that we don't provide such a comprehensive level of care in Australia."

Grabs said he looked back on his experience in Jerusalem "all the time".

AusBiotech chief executive Dr Anna Lavelle, an industry organisation representing more than 3000 members, visited Israel in May this year as the Yachad-Australia Israel Chamber of Commerce scholar.

She said there were similarities between the two countries in terms of both having small populations but being highly innovative in biotechnology advancement.

"I was so comfortable in the culture there that I felt it was like being an Australian on steroids," she said. "This was a life-changing experience for me. I don't say that lightly and I don't think that I've ever said it before."

Earlier this month, the 35th scholar in the Yachad program arrived in Israel.

Kylie Charlton, managing director of Unitus Capital and social investment fellow at the University of New South Wales' Centre for Social Impact, will be working with Israel's non-profit sector on innovative ways to ensure their sustainability.



Biotech expert Dr Anna Lavelle called her trip to Israel "life changing".

Photo: Yachad