



**Royal Commission**  
into Institutional Responses  
to Child Sexual Abuse

2 September 2016

Rabbi Mordechai Gutnick  
Rabbinical Council of Victoria

c/- Jeffrey Appel OAM  
SBA Lawyers

**By e-mail:** [jappel@sbalaw.com](mailto:jappel@sbalaw.com)

Dear Rabbi Gutnick,

**Case Study 22**

The Royal Commission is seeking information from certain institutions which have been the subject of a previous case study. The Royal Commission wishes to examine actions taken by institutions, after the public hearing, to enhance the safety of children within their care, to improve the effectiveness of their responses to reports of child sexual abuse and to alleviate the impact of past and future child sexual abuse within those institutions.

It is acknowledged that the report of the Case Study 22 is not yet published.

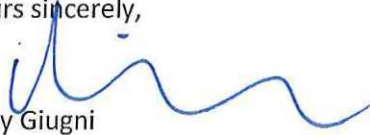
As you are aware, the Yeshivah Centre, Yeshivah-Beth Rivkah Colleges and associated institutions (**Yeshivah Melbourne**) were examined in Case Study 22, in a public hearing held in Melbourne in February 2015. During that public hearing, there was some discussion of the guidance provided by the Rabbinical Council of Victoria to its members in responding to these matters.

We request that the Rabbinical Council of New South Wales provide a written response to the matters broadly described above, and to the specific matters set out in Annexure A.

The Royal Commission will issue a notice requiring the production of your response, together with all supporting documents, returnable on 30 September 2016.

Please do not hesitate to contact me or Sifa Mtango on 02 8282 3941 or by email at [sifa.mtango@childabuseroyalcommission.gov.au](mailto:sifa.mtango@childabuseroyalcommission.gov.au) if you wish to discuss this matter further.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tony Giugni', with a stylized, wavy flourish extending to the right.

Tony Giugni

Solicitor Assisting

Telephone: 02 8284 2431

Email: [tony.giugni@childabuseroyalcommission.gov.au](mailto:tony.giugni@childabuseroyalcommission.gov.au)

### Annexure A – Rabbinical Council of Victoria – Case Study 22

1. What action has the Rabbinical Council of Victoria taken as a result of Case Study 22? In particular, any action in relation to:
  - a. organisational structure, governance and culture;
  - b. training and supervision of staff;
  - c. child protection policy and procedures;
  - d. redress for survivors of child sexual abuse;
  - e. measures to encourage reporting of child sexual abuse to secular authorities;
  - f. the promotion of the key elements of a child-safe organisation' as identified in the Royal Commission publication *Creating Child Safe Institutions*, available at <http://www.childabuseroyalcommission.gov.au/getattachment/5d0dc659-68c2-46f9-847b-fafd52f58673/Creating-child-safe-institutions>.
2. What consultations were held, and what materials considered, in the formulation of the action taken and changes made by the Rabbinical Council of Victoria.
3. What impediments did, or do, the Rabbinical Council of Victoria and its members face in implementing the action taken and changes made and any other reforms, and what are the proposed measures to overcome these impediments?

In Annexure A, the key elements of a child-safe organisation are:

- a. Child safety is embedded in institutional leadership, governance and culture;
- b. Children participate in decisions affecting them and are taken seriously;
- c. Families and communities are informed and involved;
- d. Equity is promoted and diversity respected;
- e. People working with children are suitable and supported;
- f. Processes to respond to complaints of child sexual abuse are child focussed;
- g. Staff are equipped with the knowledge, skills and awareness to keep children safe through continual education and training;
- h. Physical and online environments minimise the opportunity for abuse to occur;
- i. Implementation of child safe standards is continuously reviewed and improved;
- j. Policies and procedures document how the institution is child safe.