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Rabbinical Council of Victoria
 Religious Leadership for the Jewish Community
 ועד הרבנים דויקטוריה

President: Rabbi Meir Shlomo Kluwgant
 Vice President: Rabbi Mordechai Gufrick
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For Immediate Release

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RCV Responds to comments attributed Rabbi Lesches in The Age (23 June 2013)

The Rabbinical Council of Victoria (RCV) is appalled by, and unequivocally distances itself from, comments attributed to Rabbi Boruch Lesches as reported in The Age (23 June 2013). As stated on numerous occasions, the RCV encourages the reporting of all incidents of child sexual abuse to the police.

In recent years the RCV, in conjunction with the Jewish Taskforce Against Family Violence (JTAFV), has held numerous training sessions for its members and members of the Victorian Rabbinate in general. These sessions have focused on appropriate responses to disclosures of all forms of abuse, including the reporting of child sexual abuse to the police.

RCV President Rabbi Meir Shlomo Kluwgant said that any suggestion that the reported comments are "consistent with the approach of many senior orthodox Jewish figures in the community", is malicious in nature and incorrect.

"It is deeply regrettable and shocking that there still do exist some individuals out there on the fringe in the religious leadership world who take positions contrary to the clear-cut contemporary halachic (Jewish law) approach on the matter of child sexual abuse."

"The RCV will continue to promote the reporting of abuse to the police and to renounce any suggestions or individuals who take a contrary position on this matter," said Rabbi Kluwgant.

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