



**Statement**

1/2/15

**Name** AVR  
**Address** Known to the Royal Commission  
**Occupation** Retail  
**Date**

1. This statement made by me accurately sets out the evidence that I am prepared to give to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. The statement is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.
2. Where direct speech is referred to in this statement, it is provided in words or words to the effect of those which were used, to the best of my recollection.

**Background**

3. My full name is AVR My date of birth is REDACTED 1975.
4. When I was a child I lived in REDACTED with my mum. I attended REDACTED in REDACTED for Years 8 and 9. I was attending the REDACTED Synagogue and I made friends with some Jewish boys my age, who told me how good Yeshivah College in Melbourne was and talked me into going there. I was interested in deepening my religious studies and there was nothing like Yeshivah College in REDACTED.
5. At this time my Mother was ill with leukaemia.

**Arrival at Yeshivah College**

6. I understand that my Mother made arrangements with Rabbi Glick. I was given a scholarship. I flew to Melbourne. I arrived at the Yeshivah College in St Kilda East sometime during the December 1990 – January 1991 school holidays. Someone from the Yeshivah picked me up from the airport. I now can't recall the name of the man who picked me up. He took me to the Yeshivah College dormitory and allocated me a room. I think my mum may have paid board for me to stay in the Yeshiva dormitory. He told me that the Yeshivah boys were at home or on holidays and that I could stay there over the summer. I came early, before term started, as I was to study religious

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matters. I was doing religious studies one on one with some of the other older boys. I was the only kid there at the time, plus a few older boys who showed me around. I was about 15 years old at the time.

### **How I met David Cyprys**

7. I had rung the Yeshivah and Rabbi Glick a few times with questions such as where would I be staying when the boys returned from holidays. I had also had a few meetings with Rabbi Glick. I got the feeling that maybe Rabbi Glick found me to be bothersome. One day Rabbi Glick met me at the dorm. David Cyprys was there as well at the meeting, and I am pretty sure Rabbi Glick brought Cyprys to the meeting. Rabbi Glick told me that Cyprys was the caretaker of the Yeshivah, and that if I had any issues I should call Cyprys rather than ringing him or the Yeshivah. Rabbi Glick gave me Cyprys' phone number. There was a phone in the dorm that I could use to call Cyprys. After that, I did not see Rabbi Glick as much.
8. It seemed to me that David Cyprys came to the Yeshivah twice every day to open up and close up. He often seemed to be around. It seemed to me that Rabbi Glick had asked him to keep an eye on me. I enjoyed the attention from Cyprys because I was lonely and I did not have a father figure in my life and I looked to Cyprys as a role model at the Yeshivah. One hot summer's day my room was really hot and I spoke to Cyprys and he agreed to pick me up to look for a fan for my room. If I was bored, Cyprys would take me on a job. He had keys to everything. He taught me how to pick locks with a special pin. He talked a lot about being a martial arts expert and offered to teach me. I thought he was a really cool guy and he seemed genuinely interested in me.
9. At some point the Yeshivah boys returned for the start of term and I moved in with my grandmother's sister in REDACTED, and later I moved in with a local Yeshivah family. Cyprys visited me at the REDACTED house and other places outside the Yeshivah.

### **Sexual Abuse by David Cyprys**

10. I was repeatedly sexually abused by David Cyprys. I do not wish to repeat the awful details. I first made a report to the police about some of the abuse and Cyprys entered a plea of guilty to indecent assault on or about 24 August 1991. At this time I could not

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bring myself to mention the rapes. Later I made a more complete report to the police. Details of what Cyprys did to me are recorded in my statement to the police dated 4 November 2011. Cyprys was charged with further sexual offences against me, and he was convicted of multiple counts of rape in relation to me in 2013. The details of this are recorded in the Reasons for Sentence of His Honour Judge Wischusen dated 20 December 2013. I am identified as Victim 11 in the Victoria Police document "Summary of Charges Victoria Police v David Cyprys" prepared as part of the criminal proceedings.

### Disclosure of the Abuse

11. At the time of the abuse I did not know much about sexual matters and it was difficult for me to understand what Cyprys had done to me, or how to describe it. I was embarrassed. My mum was sick and alone and interstate, and I was worried about her. One day I was at the Yeshivah and I was crying in the playground. A kid called REI [redacted] REDACTED took me home to his house. At this stage I think I was staying with another family so it was nice of REI to take me home with him. I may have told his mum what had happened with Cyprys although I am not exactly sure, but I am sure his mum rang my mum in REDACTED and told her she should come to Melbourne. My mum went to the airport and tried to get on the first flight to Melbourne. She was on standby for a seat. She told me later that she stood on a seat and shouted out to the crowd that she really needed to get to Melbourne and someone gave up their seat on the plane to help her and she flew to Melbourne.
12. Mum came and got me that night I think. She picked me from REI's house in the evening. That night I told mum that Cyprys had been sexually abusing me when she came to collect me from REI's house. I was worried about her, so I did not tell her the full extent of the abuse, she was quite sick and I thought that would push her over the edge. She rang Rabbi Groner and had a conversation with him about Cyprys sexually abusing me.
13. The next day my Mum and I went to the Yeshivah. We went to the front of the Yeshivah and we saw Rabbi Groner standing out the front speaking to some other people, I introduced him to my mum and said we wanted to speak to Rabbi Glick – as I did not want to go home. I wanted to stay at the Yeshivah, so we wanted to know what

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was to be done. When mum and I approached Rabbi Glick my mum told him what happened with Cyprys abusing me. We also wanted to find out what was happening about the situation (as I wanted to stay at the school) but Rabbi Glick said my scholarship had been cancelled.

- 14. I feel that from the time of the disclosure Rabbi Glick and the Yeshiva did not want me there any more. They did not offer to help me or provide me with any counselling.
- 15. From the time of the disclosure no one associated with the Yeshiva would speak to us or help us. Even our own family members would not help us and we had a lot of trouble getting back to the airport and getting back home to REDACTED. Sadly my Mum passed away from her illness in 1995.

Signed: AVR

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