

Rabbi Yehoshua Smukler  
Principal  
The Yeshivah and Beth Rivkah Colleges Inc  
88 Hotham Street  
St Kilda East  
VIC 3183



Victorian Registration &  
Qualifications Authority

GPO Box 2317  
Melbourne VIC 3001  
T 61 3 9637 2806  
F 61 3 9032 1579  
vrqa@edumail.vic.gov.au  
www.vrqa.vic.gov.au

Dear Rabbi Smukler

I write to request your assistance with regard to an investigation I am currently undertaking. On 30 April 2014, the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority (VRQA) received a complaint from a member of the public. While the complainant wishes to remain anonymous, the nature of the complaint is such that I consider it necessary to undertake an investigation.

The complainant alleges that a Mr David Cyprys has continued since 16 August 2011 to the present year to have his employer listed as Yeshivah Centre, 92 Hotham Street Balaclava on his security licence. As you will be aware, Mr Cyprys was convicted in 2013 of sexually abusing nine boys (aged between 7 and 17) during the 1980s and 1990s and is presently incarcerated.

Given the proximity of the Yeshivah Centre (92 Hotham Street, East St Kilda) to your school, Yeshivah College (88 Hotham Street East St Kilda), I wish to establish the College's relationship with the Yeshivah Centre and confirm the College's compliance with the minimum standards, specifically in relation to the College's provision of a safe environment.

As you are aware, registered schools are required to act in accordance with the *Minimum standards and other requirements for school registration*. Specifically, with regard to this investigation, schools are required:

“.. to have policies and procedures to provide students with a safe environment where the risk of harm is minimised and students feel physically and emotionally secure.”

Registered schools are also required to comply with the *Working with Children Act 2005* with regard to the employment of staff and the involvement of self-employed people and volunteers.

To assist me with my investigation, I request from you:

- details of the governance and operational relationship between Yeshivah College at 88 Hotham Street East St Kilda and the Yeshivah Centre at 92 Hotham Street East St Kilda
- details about the extent of the use of the Yeshivah Centre by Yeshivah College
- the current Student Welfare policy
- the current Mandatory Reporting Policy and Procedures
- details of how the Student Welfare Policy and Mandatory Reporting Policy are applied when students access the Yeshivah Centre
- the current register of staff with a Working with Children Check or VIT registration

- current procedures for maintaining the register
- details of how the College ensures that staff who do not have a Working with Children Check are supervised where they have direct regular contact with children.

To ensure the efficient and timely management of this investigation, I intend to have two of my authorised officers, Mr John Mildren and Mr Geoff Pile, attend Yeshivah College on 29 May 2014 to review the documents requested above and discuss their implementation in practice. Mr Mildren will contact you directly to arrange a mutually convenient time to schedule this visit.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Mr John Mildren, Manager Student Services and Industry Liaison on 9032 1554 or at [mildren.john.j@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:mildren.john.j@edumail.vic.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



LYNN GLOVER

Director, VRQA

19 May 2014