



SOUTH
EASTERN
CENTRE
AGAINST
SEXUAL
ASSAULT

16 June 2008

To Whom It May Concern

Re: Mr Ezzy Kestecher
DOB: 23.06.1985

Ezzy was referred to the writer for counselling in January 2008 by the JTAFV following an incident at the Chabad Youth summer camp. He has attended 13 counselling sessions of one hour duration since that time and maintained contact when he was visiting family in England.

Ezzy's employment as youth camp counsellor was terminated following reports that some boys in his charge had slept in his room. While there were no disclosures of any sexual nature, the behaviour was considered a breach of boundaries that all the counsellors had been warned against. Furthermore, it raised the possibility that these actions may constitute 'grooming' behaviour- that is behaviour designed to lure and normalise children in order to perpetrate sexual assault.

Ezzy's reaction to his employment termination has been extreme and overwhelming. He has experienced a range of depressive and anxiety related symptoms, which he is continuing to struggle with. He has expressed feelings of anger, frustration and indignancy in his belief that he has been labelled as a sexual perpetrator. He has felt unsure of his standing in the Melbourne Jewish community and is haunted by what may be said through the informal network and what volunteer work he is allowed to/ 'banned from' participating in. He feels burdened with how to defend himself when he is unsure of the charges.

Ezzy has utilised the counselling offered through SECASA appropriately in an attempt to process and explore many of these feelings. He has described his attraction to the vocation of working with youth and many of his own experiences as a teenager. Through counselling, he has disclosed that he was a victim of child sexual assault and is aware that latent emotions related to his trauma have been retriggered by these events. He has explored family of origin themes and the development of his adult identity in Melbourne.

Southern Health

9928 8741 ADMINISTRATIVE
9594 2289 CRISIS LINE
9594 2175 TTY
9928 8749 FAX
PO BOX 72
EAST BENTLEIGH
VIC 3185

Ezzy presents as an insightful, reflective young man who is struggling to make sense of his current predicament. He displays the capacity to conceptualise and view issues from a range of perspectives. His experience of victimisation have provided him with empathy of the deleterious impact of sexual assault and intensified his reactions to being accused. He possesses the capacity for emotional regulation and ability to utilise social supports appropriately. All of these attributes would indicate that Ezzy would not be at risk of sexually harming any children and youth in his care.

Counselling will continue to be offered to Ezzy as required.

Yours sincerely

Mary Mass

Mary Mass
Counsellor/Advocate
SECASA

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