

### **YBR's Holistic Approach to Child Protection:**

As part of YBR's commitment to ensuring and providing a safe environment for all of our children, we once again have taken a leading role in educating our parent body. This past Tuesday, YBR hosted Dr Joe Tucci, CEO of the Australian Childhood Foundation, a preeminent scholar and speaker about child abuse prevention. Well over 100 parents of children in the middle primary to junior high school attended the event.

The keynote address was followed by a Q&A panel with:

- *Dr Joe Tucci* – CEO Australian Childhood Foundation
- *Mrs Sheiny New* – Vice Chair of The Jewish Taskforce Against Family Violence
- *Rabbi Meir Shlomo Klugant* – Rabbinic Expert in the area of Child Protection and President of the Rabbinical Council of Victoria
- *Rabbi Yehoshua Smukler* – Principal YBR Colleges

The evening was potent and powerful and served to increase both awareness as well as instil confidence in our parent body in how to balance healthy vigilance whilst fostering independence in our children. The underlying message of the evening was, in addition to employing best practice in school policies and procedures, as well as the ongoing school training of children in protective behaviours, it is vital for parents to have an open dialogue with their children about these issues. Children must be aware that they can and should have conversations with their parents about intimacy, relationships and any untoward behaviour or occurrences in their lives. Their parents will believe and support them and will always love them no matter what. Throughout the evening it was reiterated that there are significant confidential communal resources within the Jewish Community and beyond that parents can turn to for help and assistance.

Thank you to all those who made the event possible, and to everyone who attended the event.

If you wish to view a video of the event, it can be found at.....

Please ensure to read the essential parent discussion points found beneath the video.