

Lanie Goldberger

From: pa-to-principal@ybr.vic.edu.au
Sent: Friday, 15 August 2014 4:09 PM
To: PA to Principal
Subject: YBR Colleges - at the forefront of keeping children safe



Dear YBR Parents,

I am writing in reference to an important discussion, in relation to Child Protection matters, that has arisen after Tuesday night's screening of the ABC Compass program.

I would like to reiterate Yeshivah Centre's unreserved and repeated apologies for the mishandling of past cases of child abuse. Many lessons have been learned, and we continue to offer support and counselling to those affected. We encourage anyone who is in need of support to contact, in strict confidence, Rabbi Chaim Tzvi Groner on: Rabbi.Groner@yeshivahcentre.org

Today YBR Colleges employ absolute best practice and prioritises child safety. Through training, we create a vigilant staff, empower our children, and partner with and increase awareness in our parent body. We also work closely with community agencies and the authorities in order to keep our children safe.

All registered school in Victoria are regulated by the VRQA - the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority. The VRQA ensures Victorian Schools comply with quality assurance standards in education and management.

Below are the concluding remarks of the VRQA findings in a recent audit of our school's handling and prevention of Child Abuse:

"Both the representative from Child Protection in the DHS and the Victoria Police SANO Taskforce officer endorsed your leadership and professionalism in the context of child protection at Yeshivah College. The representative from Child Protection found that the College liaises well and is responsive to approaches by DHS.

The senior SANO Taskforce officer contacted by the VRQA indicated that officers have visited the school to view the schools policies, procedures and educational initiatives in the area of child protection and have found them to be appropriate. He found you and the College to be excellent to deal with in such matters and has found that the College has been transparent in directly addressing past issues of abuse with the school community.

I am satisfied that the College has appropriate and effective policies and practices for ensuring that all adults who may come in contact with children in the College have either Victorian Institute of Teaching registration or a current Working With Children Check.

Conclusion

As a result of my enquiries I am satisfied that Yeshivah College, a registered school under the Act , is compliant with the minimum standards relating to Student Welfare , Mandatory Reporting and Working With Children checks.

I am satisfied that the College has extensive education processes in place to ensure the safety of all children within its responsibility . I am also satisfied that the current leadership of the school has explicitly acknowledged sexual abuse issues of the past and continues to work with the whole school community to strengthen child protection in the school community .

I am also satisfied that the College works actively and professionally with the Department of Human Services and Victoria Police in the interests of child protection in the College community.

Finally, thank you and your school community for your cooperation with the VRQA in the investigation of this matter.

Signed: Lynn Glover, Director (of the VRQA)”

YBR Colleges are in the forefront of keeping children safe.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our parents for your ongoing support in entrusting us with the education of your children. Our door is always open and we welcome parents to contact us at all times.

Good Shabbos,

Rabbi Yehoshua Smukler
Principal Yeshivah - Beth Rivkah Colleges

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