



**Executive Council of  
Australian Jewry**

## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

**24 June 2013**

The Executive Council of Australian Jewry (ECAJ), the national peak body of the Jewish community in Australia, is appalled by, and unequivocally condemns comments attributed to Rabbi Boruch Lesches as reported in *The Age* (23 June 2013).

The ECAJ reaffirms its public statements of 18 July 2011 and 27 November 2012 that:

- child sexual abuse is a crime of the utmost seriousness;
- it is obligatory to report all allegations of sexual abuse to the relevant authorities, and all alleged victims should be encouraged to come forward and provide the police with any relevant information they may have and do everything to assist the police with their enquiries;
- the families, friends and advisers of those with claims of abuse are encouraged to support them in every way, for the sake of helping victims to achieve justice and closure and to prevent further harm to other children; and
- there is no place for victims to be ostracized or ‘punished’ in any way for coming forward and making a complaint;

and further declares that:

- any suggestion that young children are in a position to ‘consent’ to sexual abuse is utterly misconceived and to be deplored;
- racially discriminatory or vilificatory comments of any kind in connection with such abuse are unacceptable and not to be tolerated.

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