

**ROYAL COMMISSION INTO INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSES TO CHILD SEXUAL
ABUSE**

CASE STUDY 22: YESHIVA BONDI

RABBI PINCHUS FELDMAN O A M

Response to request for supplementary information, consequent on response to September 2016 enquiry form Commission, contained in a letter from Solicitor to Royal Commission dated 8 February 2017

- 1. Did the Yeshiva Centre Bondi consult with any child protection agencies for the purposes of developing, drafting or implementing the child protection policies and procedures of the Yeshiva Centre Bondi and associated institutions? If so, please provide details.**

The written policies adopted by Chabad Youth were adapted from those in use at the North Shore Chabad Centre which operates activities similar to Chabad Youth and in addition provides a Daycare Centre. Chabad North Shore utilized the services of a recognized provider of resources for childcare and similar services, namely Centre Support.

- 2. Your response states that Rabbis Pinchus Feldman, Eliyohu Feldman, Elimelech Levy and two student volunteers have attended child protection courses. Your response also states that "all permanent staff and wherever practical all volunteer and ad hoc staff attend courses in child protection and all are subject to WWC checks". Please provide further information as to:**
- a) the details of the child protection courses and training undertaken by all staff and volunteers since 13 February 2015, including course dates and titles.**
 - b) the supervision provided to staff and volunteers.**
 - c) the criteria for determining which volunteers are subject to Working With Children Checks.**

- a) Details of courses attended are as follows

Rabbi Pinchus Feldman

FACS

- Understanding Child Sexual Assault 15 June 2015

Rabbi Eliyohu Feldman

FACS

- Understanding Child Sexual Assault 15 June 2015

NSW Ombudsman

- Child protection course 31 March 2016

Rabbi Elimelech Levy

- **FACS**

Understanding Child Sexual Assault 15 June 2015

- **NSW Ombudsman**

child protection course 31 March 2016

- **Department of Education**

Child Protection Awareness Training 9 February 2015

- **Australian Community Education College**

Identify and respond to Children and Young People at Risk CHCPRT001 12 July 2016

- **Charter Australia**

HLTAID004 Provide an emergency first aid response in an education and care setting 10 August 2016

Volunteer rabbinical student Dovid Feigenson

- **Educare**

Youth Worker Program 25 September 2016

- **Australian Training Institute**

HLTAID004 Provide an emergency first aid response in an education and care setting 6 January 2017

Volunteer rabbinical student Menachem Naparstek

- **Educare**

Youth Worker Program 25 September 2016

- **Australian Training Institute**

HLTAID004 Provide an emergency first aid response in an education and care setting 6 January 2017

b) **The supervision provided to staff and volunteers.**

Rabbi Levy attends all functions of Chabad Youth and provides supervision and direction to volunteer staff and as necessary to participants. Representatives of the Synagogue Committee of Management attend services and check on the supervision of the childrens' services.

c) **The criteria for determining which volunteers are subject to Working With Children Checks**

Any person over 18 who is involved in supervising teaching or otherwise interacting with children as part of the services provided by Chabad Youth or Yeshiva Synagogue is required to undergo a Working with Children Check.

3. Your response states "within Yeshiva any and all information is shared". Please provide further details as to any formal or informal mechanisms for the sharing of information.

Information sharing is generally informal. Rabbis Eliyohu Feldman and Elimelech Levy generally attend meetings of the Yeshiva Synagogue management committee which has a total membership of about 8. Management of forthcoming events such as periods of Holy Days is subject of general discussion and planning which includes ensuring suitable staff are only used after the necessary checks have been carried out. Additionally Rabbis P and E Feldman and E Levy meet weekly and discuss all current issues. We stress that Yeshiva Bondi as constituted since December 2012 is a small organisation without any realistic need for a more formal management structure than currently exists.

4 In Case Study 22, the Royal Commission received into evidence Yeshiva Bondi's proposed rules for the ritual bathhouse (the mikveh) (see the Report of Case Study No. 22, page 82 found at <http://www.childabuserovalcommission.gov.au/getattachment/e8136521-df46-4082-97ba-a9c474df5272/Report-of-Case-Study-No-22>). Your response did not address current practices at the bathhouse. Please provide details as to the current measures in place to enhance child safety at the bathhouse.

The policy requiring children to be accompanied by an adult or have parental consent (for teenagers, not younger people) to attend has been emailed to all worshippers and is posted on the door of the mikveh and on the bulletin board in the synagogue entry foyer. The text of the Notice is as follows

--ooOoo--

“ Rules of Entry for People Under Age of 18

Children of 12 years and under must be accompanied by a parent and/or guardian

Teenage children (from 13 to 17 years) must provide written permission to enter and use the bathhouse authored by a parent and/or guardian. (Can be requested from or emailed to sydneymensmikveh@gmail.com.au)

Any concern about inappropriate or unlawful conduct at the bathhouse is to be immediately reported to a nominated person and/or notified to the relevant law enforcement authority”

--ooOoo--

The premises are covered by closed circuit TV which monitors all entrances and exits.

24 February 2017

Austin Legal

For Rabbi Pinchus Feldman



David Austin