

" ATTACHMENT II "

# Yeshivah Redress Scheme

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Committee of Management

# Yeshivah Redress Scheme Overview

- Michael Debinski, Scheme Coordinator
- John Leatherland, Reviewer

# Background

- Scheme based on best practice models
- Panel experienced operating a redress Scheme
- Knowledge of other organisations where schemes have been established
- Strongly influenced by *The Redress and Civil Litigation Report of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse*, released on 14 September 2015.

# Purpose of Scheme

The Yeshivah Redress Scheme offers redress to people who have suffered sexual abuse while either a student of the Yeshivah Beth Rivkah Colleges or when engaged in youth and/or community activities at the Yeshivah Centre

## Who is eligible?

1. The person was under the age of 18 at the time of the abuse.
2. The abuse was perpetrated by a person who was either:
  - engaged or employed by Yeshivah Centre / YBR at time of abuse; and/or
  - working as a volunteer at the Yeshivah Centre at time of abuse; and/or
  - a student at YBR or who was participating in Yeshivah Centre youth/community activities at time of abuse
3. There is a sufficient connection between the sexual abuse and the person's involvement with Yeshivah

# What is Redress?

The provision of support, an apology and a monetary payment to a person under the Scheme as an acknowledgement by the Yeshivah Centre that:

- abuse is wrong;
- abuse can have a serious impact;
- those entrusted with the responsibility of caring for children have a special responsibility to protect them from sexual and other abuse; and
- Yeshivah Centre deeply regrets the failure to protect those who were victims of abuse perpetrated by people in a position of trust.

## Personal Response by the Yeshivah Centre

- an apology
- an opportunity for the Applicant to meet with a senior representative of the Yeshivah Centre
- an assurance of the steps the Yeshivah Centre has taken or will take to prevent similar abuse re-occurring
- a discussion as to any other possible ways the Yeshivah Centre may be able to assist the applicant

## Counselling and Psychological Care

- Acknowledge that people who have been abused have experienced significant harm and trauma
- Scheme will supplement existing services or fill service gaps
- Applicants will have access to counselling and psychological care that they need.



## A Monetary Payment

A tangible recognition of the seriousness of the hurt and injury suffered by a survivor (ex gratia)

- Category 1 – significant abuse: \$10,000 to \$20,000
- Category 2 - severe abuse: \$20,000 to \$50,000
- Category 3 – extremely severe abuse: \$50,000 to \$80,000

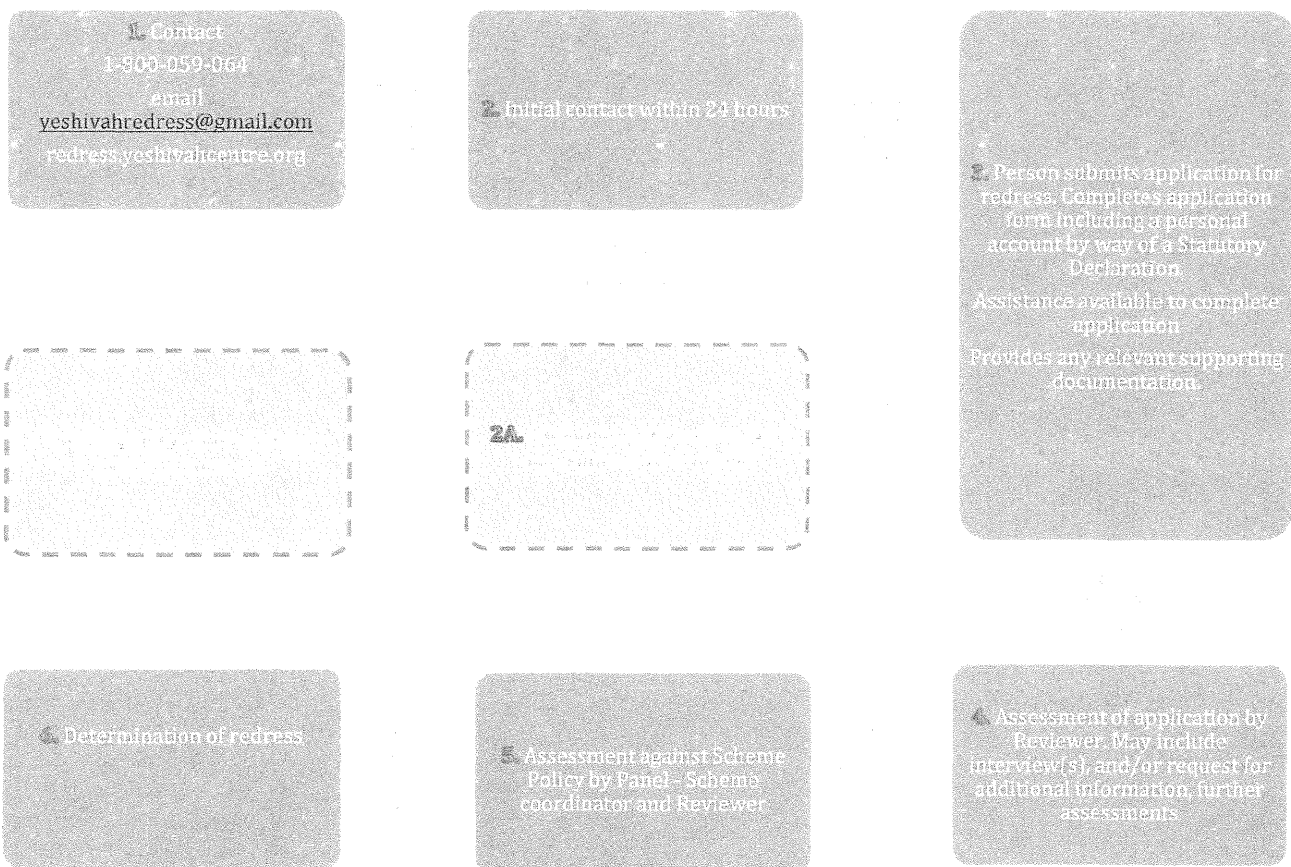
The Panel will consider the severity of the abuse and the severity of the impact of the abuse both while at Yeshivah and subsequently

The Panel will also consider if the Applicant experienced other forms of abuse in conjunction with the sexual abuse, including physical abuse

## Standard of Proof

- Panel must be satisfied that it is **reasonably likely** that sexual abuse occurred
- Assessment will not require Panel to make a determination on the 'balance of probabilities' or 'beyond reasonable doubt' as is required by civil or criminal proceedings.
- Standard of proof only requires the Panel to be satisfied that the alleged abuse was more than just 'a possibility' and that there are 'real and substantial grounds' that it occurred.

# Operation of the Scheme: Process Map



# Scheme Independence

- Decisions made by independent panel following the Policy approved by the Yeshivah Centre COM
- 1 800 number and email address not operated by Yeshivah
- Funds held and administered by 3<sup>rd</sup> party
- Records maintained by 3<sup>rd</sup> party
- All materials received by the Panel from applicants and records will be kept private

# Privacy and other Safeguards

- Monetary payment not intended to affect the statutory, common law or legal rights of the person
- Privacy of information with certain exceptions
- No confidentiality obligations imposed on applicants
- Capacity to have a support person

# Reporting to Police

- Non identifying information reported to police in each instance
- Consent needs to be given by victim of abuse to report identifying information
- Matters reported to police will not affect the processing of the application

# How to contact the Scheme

- Call 1-800-059-064 during business hours – operated by Jewish Care Victoria and staffed by welfare professionals
- Email - [yeshivahredress@gmail.com](mailto:yeshivahredress@gmail.com). Email account only available to Redress Panel and Jewish Care contact officers
- Details including the Policy, FAQs and application form at:  
[www.redress.yeshivahcentre.org](http://www.redress.yeshivahcentre.org)

**ALL CONTACT WITH THE SCHEME IS STRICTLY  
CONFIDENTIAL**

Questions?