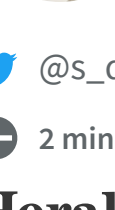


Former member of Melbourne Orthodox Jewish community arrested in US over alleged child abuse

A man who once belonged to Melbourne’s ultra-Orthodox Jewish community may be extradited from the US for allegedly abusing a prominent victims’ rights advocate in the 1980s.



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Prominent victims’ rights advocate Manny Waks, pictured, has alleged he was abused by Velvel ‘Zev’ Serebryanski, who was arrested in New York. Picture: AAP Image

A former member of Melbourne’s ultra-Orthodox Jewish community is facing extradition from the US over the alleged abuse of a prominent victims’ rights advocate.

Velvel “Zev” Serebryanski was arrested in New York this week over the alleged abuse of prominent victims’ rights identity Manny Waks in the 1980s.

Mr Waks said he had been contacted by Victoria Police to notify him of the update in the case almost 20 years after he made his first formal statement to authorities.

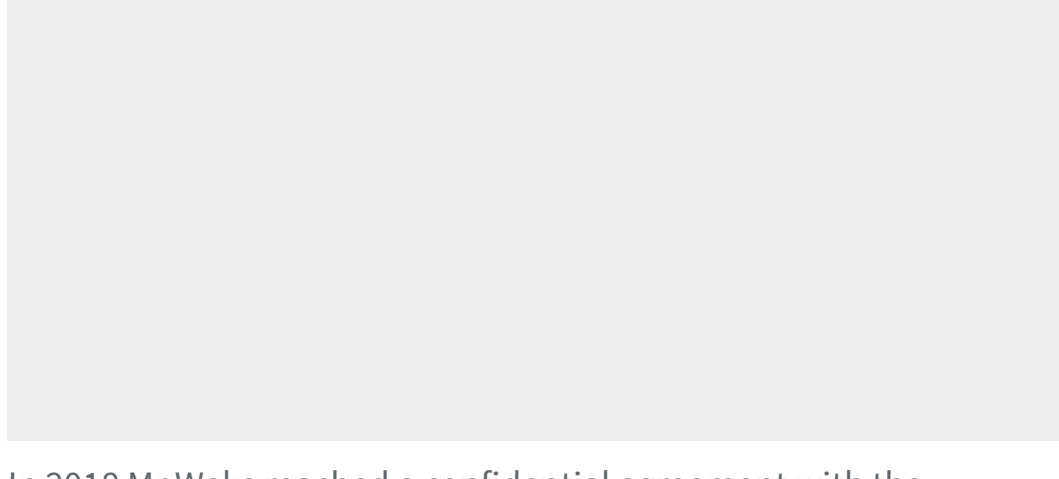
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“I’m filled with so many feelings and emotions right now, especially relief and vindication. I’m not sure that I genuinely believed that this day would actually arrive,” he said.

“Most victims/survivors of child sexual abuse never get any justice for the crimes that were perpetrated against them. In fact, most never even disclose the abuse they endured.

“I had the opportunity to hold my second abuser to account, David Cyprys, as well as those who facilitated my abuse, Melbourne’s Yeshivah Centre.

“And now I get the opportunity to finish the final piece in my personal puzzle: to hold to account my first abuser, Velvel. I feel deeply blessed and grateful.”



In 2018 Mr Waks reached a confidential agreement with the Yeshivah Centre following a six-year civil legal battle.

Cyprys was jailed for eight years in 2013 for abusing Mr Waks and eight other boys at the St Kilda East college between 1983 and 1991.

In 2018 Mr Waks reached a confidential agreement with the Yeshivah Centre following a six-year civil legal battle.

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“It’s been a tough, and fulfilling, road but I feel like I still have plenty of fight left in me,” Mr Waks said.

“I’ll do everything that I can to see this difficult process through and to hold Velvel, and his facilitators, to full account.

“I know it won’t be easy but it must be done – for my personal justice and healing, and to ensure the safety of children today and into the future.”

The significant update in the long-running case comes just weeks after fugitive Jewish school principal Malka Leifer was found guilty of 18 counts of sexual offences against two Melbourne schoolgirls.

Leifer spent years in hiding in Israel before being extradited to Australia to face justice.

The pedophile principal was first formally accused in 2011, three years after she hurriedly fled to Israel after rumours of the allegations became known within her school community.

