



Bravehearts Inc

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About Bravehearts

Since its establishment in 1997, Bravehearts Inc. has literally helped thousands of Australian children and their families, through counselling, advocacy and legislative reform. Bravehearts currently provide counselling services to hundreds of children and their families every year at a cost of nearly half a million dollars.

Given that one in three girls and one in six boys will be sexually assaulted by the time they reach 18 years old, the services provided by Bravehearts are, unfortunately, vital in our community.

Bravehearts does make a difference in child protection and is forging a movement for change in how child sexual assault is dealt with.



- ♥ **Counselling Services:** We provide counselling and support to children and young people who have experienced, or are at risk of, child sexual assault. Where possible, we provide similar services to adult survivors. This program also provides support for clients' non-offending family members.
- ♥ **Advocacy and Support:** This program provides specialised and accurate advice and assists survivors, families and community members in the resolution of their concerns through appropriate channels.
- ♥ **Ditto's Keep Safe Adventure - CD-Rom:** The first of its kind in addressing the issue of protective behaviours for children and young people, DKSA has become an invaluable tool in teaching children and young people about personal safety.
- ♥ **Ditto's Keep Safe Adventure - Education Program:** A fun, live, interactive personal safety education program based on DKSA CD-Rom, sees Ditto travelling to schools and child care centres.
- ♥ **Research & Lobbying Program:** We are actively involved in research, policy development and lobbying that aims to prevent, respond to, and ultimately reduce the incidence of child sexual assault in our communities.
- ♥ **Sexual Assault Disclosure Scheme:** SADS was developed with the assistance of a Queensland government interagency working party. It encourages survivors to disclose and as such stands to protect thousands of children from known predators.

- ♥ **White Balloon Awareness Campaign:** Held annually since 1997, the campaign was labelled a 'phenomenon' by Senior Police when the 1999 campaign resulted in a staggering 514% increase in disclosures.
- ♥ **Bravehearts On-line:** Our on-line partnerships and presence, including with Google, YouTube, MySpace and Facebook, aims to share information to those young people who may be at risk of sexual assault and provide them with access to advice and support.
- ♥ **Loud & Clear:** Produced in conjunction with the Queensland Police Service and the Queensland Law Society, this free educative booklet provides adult survivors with vital information about the process of the criminal justice system.
- ♥ **Information Booklets:** These publications are produced to provide information to parents and family members where there are concerns about child sexual assault, as well as to adult survivors and information specific to those working with children.
- ♥ **Supporting Hands:** This program provides a range of training and awareness workshops on child protection policies and risk management for staff and volunteers in organisations that have contact with children. The workshops are also available to other interested parties such as parent groups.
- ♥ **Professional workshops:** Bravehearts provides professional training on child sexual assault counselling for therapists working with children. The workshops are essentially skills-based, utilising experiential exercises and provide participants with knowledge and therapeutic tools for use in individual workplace settings.