



# Annual Report 2016/17



“Bravehearts is a voice for survivors who have been silenced, and a warrior for the kids of Australia who need our protection. We will stop at nothing to achieve our Vision of making this country the safest place in the world to raise a child.”

*Hetty Johnston AM  
Founder & Executive Chair Bravehearts*



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## Our Mission

To prevent child sexual assault in our society.

## Our Vision

To make Australia the safest place in the world to raise a child.

## Our Guiding Principles

To, at all times, tenaciously pursue our Mission without fear, favour or compromise and to continually ensure that the best interests, human rights and protection of the child are placed before all other considerations.

## Our Guiding Values

To, at all times, do all things to serve our Mission with uncompromising integrity, respect, energy and empathy ensuring fairness, justice, and hope for all children and those who protect them.



# Table of contents

The 3 Piers to Prevention.....7

**Educate**

Key achievements this year.....9

    Educating kids about personal safety.....10

**Empower**

Key achievements this year.....13

    Creating child safe communities.....14

    Helping survivors and their families heal.....15

    Feature: Training and education in indigenous communities.....16

    Feature: Turning Corners towards brighter futures.....18

    Providing critical support for adult survivors.....20

    Helping families nationwide.....21

    Feature: Reflections of the Royal Commission.....22

**Protect**

Key achievements this year.....25

    Feature: Exposing a broken system.....26

    Evidence-based lobbying for change.....28

    Online reporting removing barriers to disclosure.....29

    Feature: Bravehearts' Children's Advocacy Centre.....30

Campaigns, fundraising and media

    Snapshot of results.....33

    Raising funds and building awareness.....34

    Breaking the silence in the media.....36

Our People: Working to protect Aussie kids.....39

Financials

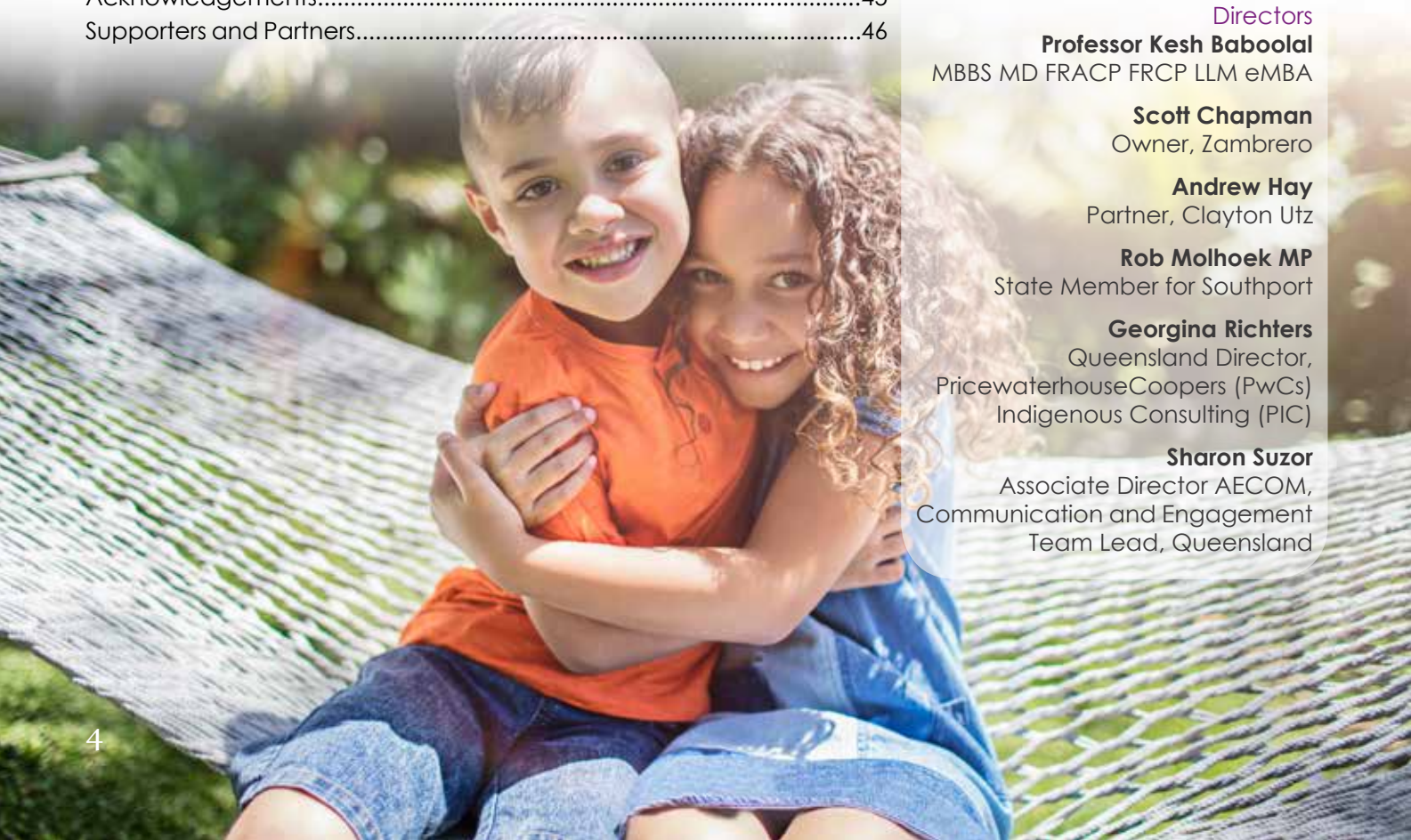
    Financial overview.....41

    Financial statement 2016-17.....42

    Grants and funding.....43

Acknowledgements.....45

Supporters and Partners.....46



# Message from our Founder and Executive Chair

Albert Einstein's quote, 'No problem can be solved from the same level of consciousness that created it' rings particularly true as Bravehearts continues its Mission to prevent child sexual assault.

A recent field study trip to Dallas in the United States to the *Crimes Against Children Conference*, sponsored by our cyber-safety partners Google, was a stark reminder of how much Australia has to learn when it comes to preventing a crime which will affect more than 60,000 children per year.

One of the most significant threats facing the wellbeing of our kids is the Family Law System. Egregious decisions made by people in this system have made it the most dangerous institution in Australia for children. The effects on our most vulnerable are devastating, and yet the culture of denial continues.

Bravehearts will continue to apply pressure on the Government for a Royal Commission to ensure it takes its obligation to protect children seriously.

States and Territories must step up and fulfil their obligations to the nation's children. They must ensure government and non-government institutions properly investigate allegations of child abuse and child sexual assault, listen to children, and ensure the system is trained to hear the testimony of children.

Part of Bravehearts' solution is the development of Children's Advocacy Centres (CAC), similar to the holistic approach adopted by child protection authorities in the United States, where more than 800 Children's Advocacy Centre's currently operate.

Bravehearts' CAC would provide a coordinated, multi-agency approach to the investigation, intervention, response and treatment of child sexual assault and neglect. This will streamline procedures and prevent young victims facing multiple interviews with clinicians, police, child safety, court personnel, and medical professionals across a range of settings.

We have the expertise to make this happen and I am extremely proud of the team here at Bravehearts, whose collective contribution make this organisation what it is today. The real impact of this is highlighted in the pages that follow and the numbers are quite remarkable - 3,384 counselling sessions delivered; 125,817 kids educated with personal safety; 6,408 support calls; and 16,060 people have been trained in child protection.



Of course, we cannot accomplish our Mission without community support and involvement so, on behalf of Bravehearts' Board and all our staff, I would like to acknowledge the tremendous support of everyday people, doing extraordinary things.

To all the volunteers, donors, and generous corporate partners who go above and beyond to share our Vision, thank you! Your generous contribution is making an enormous difference in the lives of children and the brave families we support.

Kind Regards,

Hetty Johnston AM  
Bravehearts' Founder and Executive Chair



# The 3 Piers to Prevention

Educate  
Empower  
Protect

## Making Australia the safest place in the world to raise a child

The work of Bravehearts is guided by *The 3 Piers to Prevention (The 3 Piers)*; benchmarks that are the culmination of 20 years intensive research into how to reduce the incidence and ultimately, prevent the occurrence of child sexual assault.

The 3 Piers to Prevention are:

**Educate:** All children receive evidence-based, age appropriate personal safety education.




**Empower:** All adults are trained, aware and motivated to protect children, and adequate specialist counselling and support is available to all child and adult survivors of child sexual assault and those who support them.

**Protect:** All systems of community and government engage effectively and respond at all times in the best interests of the child.

The 3 Piers form a framework for making Australia the safest place in the world to raise a child.

Bravehearts' work is both guided and assessed according to The 3 Piers benchmarks. These benchmarks help guide the work we do towards achieving our Mission and Vision, as well as help us assess systemic gaps and key priorities for lobbying and reform.

Bravehearts' work, as guided by The 3 Piers to Prevention

 <b>Educate</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>~ Personal safety education programs and resources for children aged 3-8.</li><li>~ Cyber-safety, sexual safety and respectful relationships education programs and resources for children and adolescents aged 9-17.</li></ul>
 <b>Empower</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>~ Counselling and support for children and adults who have been affected by child sexual assault, and their family members.</li><li>~ Early intervention programs for young people engaging in, or at risk of engaging in, harmful sexual behaviours.</li><li>~ Case management for survivors of child sexual assault.</li><li>~ Child protection training for those working with and caring for children and young people.</li><li>~ <i>ChildPlace</i> Health and Safety risk management for organisations working with children.</li></ul>
 <b>Protect</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>~ Research and policy development.</li><li>~ Lobbying and legislative reform.</li></ul>



# Educate

## Key achievements this year



**125,817** children educated nationally through *Ditto's Keep Safe Adventure Show*.

Ditto's Keep Safe Adventure Show is a live, interactive personal safety education show that teaches children 3 to 8 years old about body ownership and keeping safe.



**1,436** schools and childcare centres across Australia were visited by our education teams to present *Ditto's Keep Safe Adventure Show*.

This included schools and childcare centres in remote communities as far North as Thursday Island, and inland to Longreach and surrounding outback communities.



**315** children between the ages of 7 and 12 engaged with Bravehearts' new cyber-safety education program *CyberEcho*.

CyberEcho teaches children and young people skills and strategies for interacting safely online. The tagline, 'what you share will always be there' underpins the program, which was developed in partnership with Google Australia and is accredited by the Australian Government Office of the Children's eSafety Commissioner.



**536** *Ditto in a Box* teaching resource packs were purchased for schools and childcare centres across Australia this year.

*Ditto in a Box* is an extensive, all-in-one package of resources for the teaching of personal safety to young children, which was developed especially for use by schools in locations not reached by Bravehearts' education teams. The resources are also used by teachers, childcare workers and parents to help solidify children's learning from the Ditto live show.



**99,227** personal safety learning resources were purchased by parents and teachers.

Resources include *Ditto's Keep Safe Adventure Songs* CDs, *Ditto's Keep Safe Adventure Show* DVD and *Parent/Carer's Guide*, *Ditto's Keep Safe Adventure Activity Book* as well as the picture books *Ben and the Babysitter* and *Becky and the Doctor*.



# Educating kids about personal safety

**B**ravehearts has been delivering Ditto's Keep Safe Adventure Show in childcare centres and primary schools for more than a decade. To date, the program has educated over 750,000 Australian kids.

To ensure continual improvement of the program, our education team collects feedback from the teachers, parents and children after the show.

The children's feedback helps us determine whether or not the children are understanding and retaining the key messages taught during the Show. Their feedback is obtained by the classroom teacher who asks the students to either write down or draw what they learnt. On the facing page is a small sample from the thousands of responses collected from children this past year. On the right is a selection of feedback from parents and teachers.

Bravehearts' education team locations



**"The children grasped the information well and were able to ask and answer questions in context regarding this subject. They were also able to transfer the information afterwards and enjoyed completing the drawing worksheet provided."**

*~ Educator, Londonderry Early Learning Centre, Sydney*

**"Very interactive and child friendly. Great you gave scenarios for the children to identify with. Private parts were introduced well."**

*~ Grade 3 Teacher, Mary McKillop Primary, South-East Queensland*

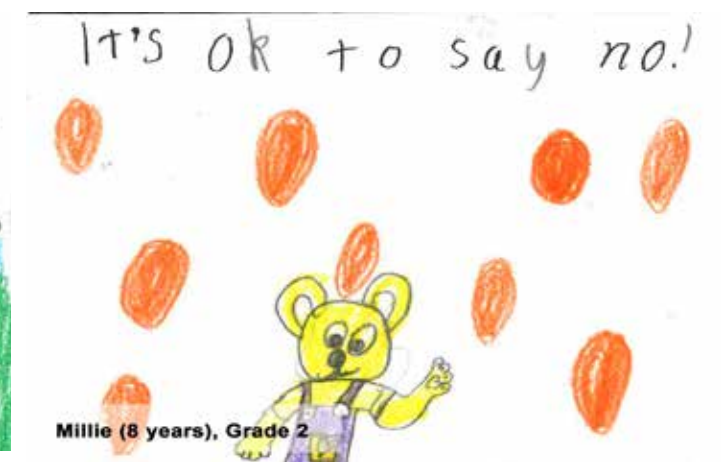
**"A wonderfully designed and presented program that used smart, age-appropriate words and encouraged learning by using lots of action. Great to see a program that encourages kids to stay safe and seek help."**

**"The children thoroughly enjoyed this program. They were engaged from the very first moment and found Ditto to be friendly and hilarious. The important messages have been repeated consistently in the weeks since Ditto visited, the program has also provided the teachers with the information and tools to pass on personal safety messages to children and adults alike."**

*~ Educator, Elements Childcare and Early Learning Centre, Victoria*



Aimee (7 years), Grade 1



Millie (8 years), Grade 2



Olivia (6 years), Prep



Aimee (8 years), Grade 2



Jadar (8 years), Grade 2



Marina (7 years), Grade 1



## Key achievements this year



**16,060** people engaged in child protection training via facilitated workshops and online learning courses.

Bravehearts' child protection training is designed to give those who work with and/or care for children the knowledge and tools to act protectively and respond in a way that best supports child safety.



**6,408** support phone calls were received nationally through Bravehearts' Intake and Support Line.

Our intake and support team is often the first point of contact people have with Bravehearts. Operated by counsellors, the team offer telephone and email counselling to people in crisis, complete intakes for face-to-face counselling, and ensure the safety of children and clients by completing child protection notifications.



**1,904** hours were spent supporting and advocating on behalf of adult survivors.

Case Managers help adult survivors report their sexual assaults to Police, help them to better understand the criminal and family court systems, assist them with obtaining records and support survivors participating in the Royal Commission.



**3,384** counselling sessions were provided to those affected by child sexual assault.

Bravehearts' counselling clients include children, young people and adults harmed by child sexual assault, as well as their supporting family members.



**112** counselling sessions were delivered to young people at risk of engaging in harmful sexual behaviours as part of *Turning Corners*.

Launched in September 2016, Turning Corners is Bravehearts' evidence-based intervention program for young people aged 12 to 17 years who have engaged in, or at risk of engaging in, harmful sexual behaviours (see feature article pages 18-19).

# Empower



## Creating child safe communities

Bravehearts' child protection training output has seen significant growth in the past financial year, particularly with our education sector services.

In response to the *Victorian Child Safe Standards*, our training specialists developed an intensive one day workshop for Child Protection Officers in schools. The workshop covers the vital information for educators fulfilling these specialist roles. The release of the new Standards has prompted an increase in demand for our services in Victoria and Bravehearts is pleased to be working with many independent schools around the State.

Bravehearts' *Introduction to Child Protection for Educators* online courses were officially endorsed by the New South Wales Education Standards Authority (NESA), resulting in a significant rise in NSW educators engaged in our online training.

Outside the education sector, our training team continued our commitment to Jetstar Little Athletics Australia (LAA), with a child safety campaign covering all 500 LAA centres nationally. Every little athletics child took home a postcard reinforcing Bravehearts' key personal safety messages, whilst every LAA centre received posters reinforcing their commitment to child protection. Additionally, nominated adult volunteers and staff underwent a tailored online training course in child protection.

Bravehearts' *ChildPlace Health and Safety Risk Management* collaboration with EY allowed our training team to deliver a comprehensive and multi-tiered program for the Australian Defence Force (ADF) and its ADF Cadet organisations. This collaboration was the main contributing factor to the significant increase in the number of people trained since last financial year.



## Helping survivors and their families heal



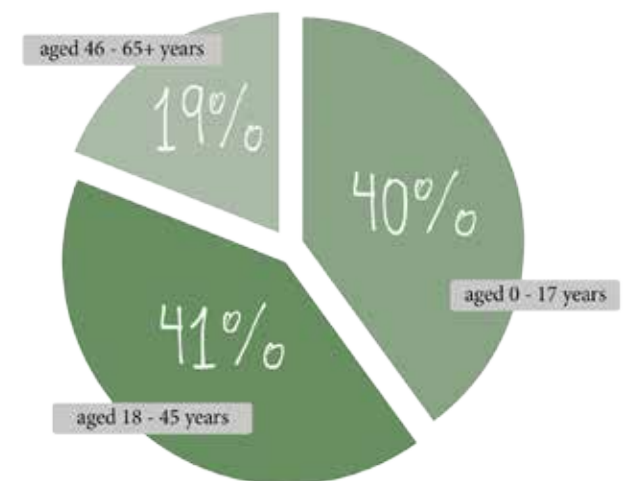
Bravehearts' therapeutic services team helps survivors heal from psychological and emotional trauma caused by child sexual assault. Our clients range in age from under five to over 65 years old.

Our holistic approach means providing counselling and support to not only survivors, but also their non-offending family members.

Our counsellors and psychologists are specialists in their field, linking with external organisations and agencies, such as domestic violence and other sexual assault services, to provide clinical training and supervision in the area of child sexual assault.

This past year, Bravehearts was invited by The Mental Health Professional Network to partner with Headspace to deliver free professional development training in the area of youth complex trauma.

The partnership delivered training to other allied health professionals from government and non-government organisations as well as private practitioners.



Counselling clients by age  
2016 - 2017 financial year

 **452**

Number of counselling clients under the age of 11 (2016-2017).



## Training and education in Indigenous communities

**B**ravehearts is committed to providing services specific to the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Partnering with a variety of government and non-government service providers, Bravehearts' training and education teams have delivered personal safety education programs and child protection training workshops in several Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities this past year.

### ProjectYou! workshops

*ProjectYou!* is Bravehearts' professionally facilitated program for high school-aged students, addressing personal safety and respectful relationships issues. At this age, young people begin to explore their own identities and form their own beliefs about relationships, making this a key stage to influence decision making. An increasing concern within adolescents is the issue of sexual and relationship violence, making it more important for high schools to incorporate personal safety messages into students' learning.

As part of ProjectYou! students engage in activities to create useful resources that help to reinforce key messages. Topics covered in the program include;

- Understanding relationships and emotions;
- Asserting personal boundaries and respecting the boundaries of others;
- Confidentiality and consent;
- Cyber safety (including sexting and the law);
- Managing stress and seeking help.

In June 2017, Mission Australia (Broken Hill) approached Bravehearts to conduct three ProjectYou! workshops in their region. Each of the workshops were facilitated over two days with groups from three high schools, and focused on

personal safety and healthy relationships.

Indigenous and non-Indigenous students engaged in the program. Due to the schools' high number of Indigenous students, care was taken by our facilitators to ensure issues covered and resources used in the workshops were culturally appropriate and relevant to the community.

Working in collaboration with Mission Australia and Broken Hill Health Integrated Violence Prevention Response Services, Bravehearts made sure students had access to support during and after the workshops.

### Child protection workshops

As well as delivering workshops to young people, our training facilitators delivered child protection training workshops to youth workers, carers and educators working in communities with high Indigenous youth populations.

In June our training team delivered Bravehearts' *Teachers and Educators Workshop* to Grafton City Council (Northern NSW) as part of *Child Protection Week*. In preparation for the workshop, our facilitator consulted with Indigenous service providers and local Aboriginal peoples to ensure the workshop would be relevant to those working with Aboriginal students in the area.

In August, our training facilitators presented a two day child protection workshop to Uniting Care in Mackay, North Queensland. The workshop participants consisted of Uniting Care therapists, social workers, residential workers, youth workers, and the Domestic Violence

Resource Service and MARABISDA (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Family Wellbeing Service).

Feedback was overwhelmingly positive with workshop participants expressing their hope for Bravehearts to re-visit the Mackay region in the future to support families affected by child sexual assault and to further train service providers working with survivors.

Earlier in the year, Bravehearts' training team visited Alice Springs to facilitate two workshops to boarding school staff and educators. The workshops were tailored to reflect the school and the Alice Springs community.

In preparation for the workshops, our training facilitator consulted with the Northern Territory (NT) Sexual Assault Referral Centre and prior to facilitating the workshop, did a site visit to discuss local issues to ensure the workshop content was relevant to the community.

The training was received well by educators and care-workers, who indicated a strong need for more support and training within rural and remote communities in the area of child sexual assault. The NT Sexual Assault Referral Centre also expressed their hope that Bravehearts would consider regular visits to the area to assist them in raising awareness of child sexual assault prevention within the community.

### Bringing personal safety education to remote communities

Bravehearts' Cairns-based education team visited a number of remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in the last year, delivering our personal safety program *Ditto's Keep Safe Adventure Show* to hundreds of primary school-aged children.

The team consists of two facilitators, one dressed as 'Ditto' the lion cub - Bravehearts' mascot and star of the live show. Towns and communities the team visited in the past 12 months include;

Mornington Island	Boigu Island
Normanton	Wujal Wujal
Doomadgee	Mossman
Burketown	Lakeland
Mt Isa	Laura
Camooweal	Cooktown
Charters Towers	Bloomfield River
Yarrabah	Rockhampton
Dajarra	Weipa
Cloncurry	Mapoon
Julia Creek	Napranum
Georgetown	Bamaga
Croydon	New Mapoon
Aurukun	Injinoo
Horn Island	Palm Island
Thursday Island	

**Artwork credit:** The artwork featured on this page are details taken from a painting by Anita Morena, from the Wiradjuri Country, Red Dust Mob, Peak Hill. The piece, entitled 'First Nations White Balloon' was gifted to Bravehearts in 2017 and was inspired by Bravehearts' White Balloon.



## Turning Corners towards brighter futures

Since the 1990s there has been a growing recognition not only of the prevalence of sexual assault of children by adults, but also that sexual assault instigated by young people does occur and is more than experimentation and curiosity. Indeed, research indicates that approximately 30 to 60% of child sexual assault is carried out by children and young people against other children.

.....

**‘Approximately 30 to 60% of child sexual assault is carried out by children and young people against other children.’**

.....

In the past, work with young people who engaged in harmful sexual behaviour was misguidedly based on adult sex-offender theory and treatment models, which do not take into account the developmental stages and moral development of young people.

Bravehearts recognised the need for a treatment and early intervention program specific to adolescents. To this end, development of a new program, which was to become *Turning Corners*, began in earnest in late 2015.

Bravehearts' Founder and Executive Chair, Hetty Johnston AM, said of the program; "Early intervention is key to making meaningful changes and growth in a young person's life. We must address the whole cycle of assault if we are truly going to prevent child sexual assault from occurring in Australia."

Turning Corners was launched in 2016 during *Child Protection Week*. This innovative program provides a comprehensive and integrated response to working with young people aged 12 to 17 who have engaged in, or are at risk of engaging in, harmful sexual behaviour. Led by a team of dedicated specialist counsellors, it is the first program of its kind in Australia.

The key difference with Turning Corners as opposed to existing treatment programs, is that Turning Corners clients are not treated as 'offenders'.



The program is built on the understanding that young people engage in harmful sexual behaviours for a wide variety of reasons and as a result of many different influences on their lives.

The client does not need to be engaged in the youth justice system to access the program, nor do they require a professional referral to seek treatment. The program draws on the young person's strengths and has a strong focus on early intervention and improved outcomes for the client, their family and the community.

Turning Corners began seeing clients in November 2016. From then until June 2017, 20 young people - 15 males and five females - have engaged in the program, over 112 individual counselling sessions.

Referrals for the program have come via Department of Child Safety, Disability Services Qld, Youth Justice, non-government agencies and private referrals (such as a parent, guardian or GP).

Since its launch, there has been a growing demand for the Turning Corners service, which now sees clients on various sites across Queensland.

Bravehearts' Turning Corners team now also provides consultancy and training for workers in government and non-government agencies, participates in restorative justice meetings and provides community education around harmful sexual behaviours to Indigenous communities in Far North Queensland.

For more information about Turning Corners, please refer to our website [bravehearts.org.au](http://bravehearts.org.au) or email [turningcorners@bravehearts.org.au](mailto:turningcorners@bravehearts.org.au).

**“Turning Corners changes more than just the reason why you come here - it changes your life. I haven’t been as happy as I am in an extremely long time, and I couldn’t have been without Turning Corners.”**

*Feedback from Turning Corners client, 15 years*



## Providing critical support for adult survivors

Disclosing can be extremely difficult for survivors of child sexual assault. It may take many years for them to speak out against their perpetrator, and the process of reporting their assault can be overwhelming. It is therefore crucial that when a survivor does gain the courage to break their silence and disclose, they are fully supported.

Bravehearts' case management team provides this support to adult survivors. The services our case managers offer to adult survivors include:

- Supporting those survivors participating in the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse;
- Helping survivors report their assault to Police;
- Helping them to understand criminal and family court processes and their rights within those systems;
- Exploring their compensation options with the help of solicitors who assist survivors on behalf of Bravehearts;
- Helping survivors to obtain necessary records from relevant agencies;
- Offering therapeutic services and helping them to access other services when required.

# 5,702

Total number of contacts our case managers made with adult survivors (including phone, email, web, off site, letter and in person contacts) in the 2016 - 2017 financial year.

# 275

Total number of Royal Commission clients supported by Bravehearts in the 2016 - 2017 financial year.

*To [Name] 23 May 2017*

*I really wish to thank you for coming into my life... you're truly a blessing. I wish I had met you years ago... Well as they say, sometimes you've gotta fall before you fly. I was at rock bottom when you came into my life, then you picked my spirit up to fly.*

*just a quick letter to you after today's call we had. I really wish to thank you for coming into my life and for being such a lovely wonderful support as you are. you have such a soft touching voice and you really give me me the sense of security as I feel safe talking with you. you listen, care and really calm me down. your truly a blessing. I wish I had met you many years ago. well as they say sometimes you've gotta fall before you fly. I was at rock bottom when you came into my life then you've picked my spirit up to fly.*

*~ Letter to one of Bravehearts' case managers from her client*

## Helping families in crisis nationwide

Bravehearts' intake and support team is often the first point of contact that people have with Bravehearts. The team consists of specialist counsellors who play an important role in guiding survivors and their family members, as well as parents and others in crisis who are seeking help and advice. Our team provides telephone counselling, recommendations and referrals, completing intake appointments for face-to-face counselling and making child protection notifications when needed.

# 8,202

Number of contacts (including phone, email and in person) that were facilitated by Bravehearts intake and support team in the 2016 - 2017 financial year.

Calls to Bravehearts' Intake and Support Line by State  
2016 - 2017 financial year



# 62

Number of child protection notifications made by the intake and support team in the 2016 - 2017 financial year.





# Reflections on the Royal Commission

After nearly five years, the *Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse* (the Commission) is wrapping up, with Public Hearings concluding in March this year.

Private Sessions are continuing and it is expected that the Commission will deliver its Final Report to the Federal Government on 15 December 2017.

The Commission process has demonstrated to the nation the lifelong impacts that child sexual assault has on individuals, families and the community. It also revealed the widespread nature and extent of institutional child sexual assault and highlighted the social stigmas and legal shortcomings that contributed to the historic lack of accountability for crimes of this nature in Australia.

Data gleaned largely from private sessions found there were more than 4,000 institutions where alleged sexual assault of children occurred. Religious institutions were most frequently named, with 60% of survivors in private sessions reporting child sexual assault in a religious organisation. Just over one-third of survivors reported harm in a government managed institution. The Commission found that many of the characteristics of failure within institutions are common.

.....  
**‘70% of people who attended private sessions were male. Almost half reported being sexually assaulted between the ages of 10 and 14 years and 28% were aged between five and nine.’**  
 .....

An analysis of alleged perpetrators conducted by the Commission found that members of the clergy were most commonly identified by those who attended private sessions, followed by teachers and residential workers. 94% of perpetrators were adult males.

The Commission heard 70% of people who attended private sessions were male. Almost half

reported being sexually assaulted between the ages of 10 and 14 years and 28% were aged between five and nine. 2025 matters have been referred to authorities, predominantly the police, with a view to the possible prosecution of an offender. 127 of these referrals are currently before the Courts.

One of the most important aspects of the Commission were the private sessions. These sessions provided an opportunity for a survivor, or a survivor's family, to tell their story of harm (sometimes for the first time) in a protected and supportive environment. These private sessions were the primary way that the Commissioners were able to bear witness to the trauma inflicted on children who suffered in an institutional context. To date, the Commissioners have heard the testimonies of more than 6,700 child sexual assault survivors in private sessions, with another 2,000 still waiting for a session.

Public Hearings have also played an important role in driving regulatory and institutional change. Many institutions, some of which have approached Bravehearts for assistance, have already responded to the problems revealed within their institutions and have implemented changes or reviews to improve the safety of children in their care.

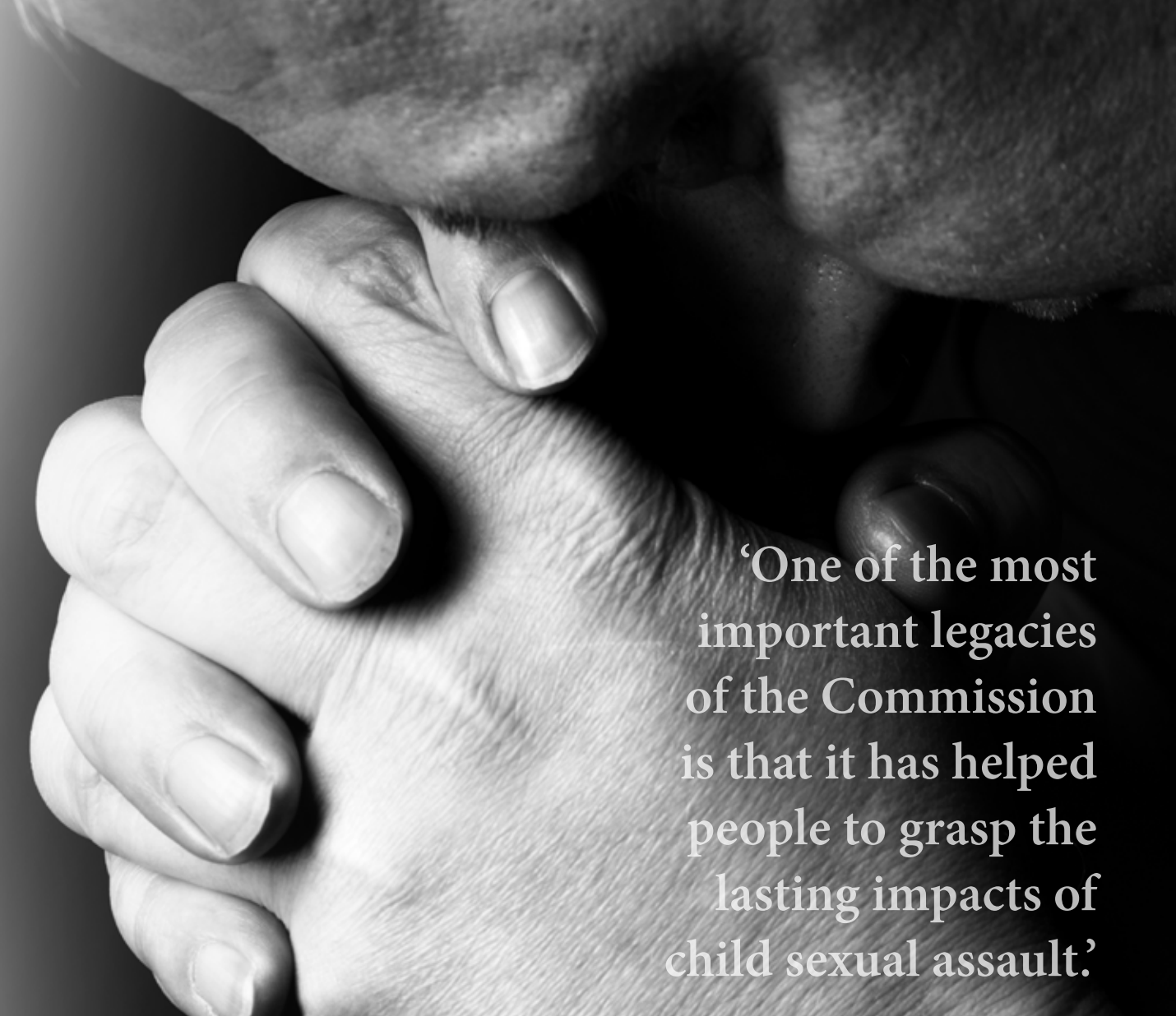
The impact of the Commission is already apparent, with a number of recommendations in relation to civil litigation already adopted by State and Territory Governments. Victoria, Queensland, New South Wales, and ACT have amended legislation to give effect to the Commission's recommendations in relation to limitation periods for claims of child sexual assault. It is expected that the remaining States and Territories will follow. Further, in May 2016 Senator George Brandis QC, Attorney-General for Australia issued a direction preventing Commonwealth agencies from pleading a defence to allegations of child sexual assault on the expiry of time limitations.

Queensland has also introduced model litigation guidelines specifically for child sexual assault claims that apply in litigation to which it is a party. They join Victoria and New South Wales in having such guidelines. With regards to the Commission's recommendations relating to the duty of care of

institutions, Victoria parliament recently passed the *Wrongs Amendment (Organisational Child Abuse) Act 2016*. This legislation reverses the onus of proof so that organisations that exercise care, supervision or authority over children will need to prove that they took reasonable steps to prevent child sexual assault. The legislation came into effect on 1 July, 2017.

One of the most important legacies of the Commission is that it has helped the Australian public grasp the lasting impacts of child sexual assault. The various public hearings have shown that time doesn't always heal, and child sexual assault is not something that survivors 'get over' once they become adults. Often it can take decades for survivors to come forward, for various reasons.

For our clients, the Commission has given them the opportunity to speak their truths and be believed. The importance of this cannot be understated. Throughout the course of the Commission, survivors have been given the chance to witness institutions being held accountable for decades of harm that



**‘One of the most important legacies of the Commission is that it has helped people to grasp the lasting impacts of child sexual assault.’**

they willfully ignored or been complicit in covering up. It has enabled survivors to access services that are trauma informed and culturally appropriate, which were not available to them previously.

There is no doubt that the Commission has been instrumental in 'changing the conversation' around child sexual assault in Australia. It has given people permission to speak. It's told survivors – 'you will be believed' which has been a wonderful gift for the community and to our future children.

.....  
**Do you need support?**

Bravehearts' Support Line (8:30am-4:30pm EST)

Freecall **1800 272 831**  
 .....



## Key achievements this year



**16** submissions were made by Bravehearts' lobbying and research team to government and non-government Inquiries, legislative reviews and discussion papers.

Bravehearts has an important role in lobbying for evidence-based responses that are focused on the protection of children and young people from sexual assault.



**89,018** signatures were collected in support of Bravehearts' petition for a Royal Commission into Australia's Family Law System.

In June 2016, Bravehearts published a discussion paper on the Family Law System titled *Abbey's Project*. As a result of this publication and the harrowing stories contained within, Bravehearts has since been calling for a Royal Commission into the Family Law System, imploring all Australians to help us change a system that is failing to protect our kids.



**99** online forms were submitted to Bravehearts as part of the *Sexual Assault Disclosure Scheme*.

The Sexual Assault Disclosure Scheme (SADS) provides adult survivors with a safe, non-confrontational and anonymous means of reporting historic cases of child sexual assault. SADS currently operates in all jurisdictions across Australia.



**13** working groups and networks sought Bravehearts involvement and expertise.

For a list of these working groups, please see the acknowledgements section, page 45.



# Exposing a broken system

**“We cannot continue to tinker at the edges of a broken system. These children are relying on the power of a Royal Commission to protect them” ~ Hetty Johnston AM**

A child's drawing shows a court room lit from above by torchlight. In the beam of light are cockroaches, scuttling away into the darkness. Her drawing depicts the Family Court. The cockroaches, she says, represent the people she trusted to protect her. Instead, they did the inconceivable. They sent her back in harm's way.

Traumatized, 'Emily' is considered one of the 'lucky' ones. Some children take their own lives, no longer able to cope with the cruel indifference inflicted by those meant to care for and protect them.

This is just a glimpse into the trail of destruction caused by systemic failures within the Family Law System. It's where State statutory authorities turn a blind eye, where judges and so-called experts are left to decide the fate of children, often based on inaccurate and ill-informed advice and/or based on misguided judicial discretion.

Bravehearts will leave no stone unturned as it continues a protracted campaign to bring about urgent reform into this toxic system.

The past year has seen a number of significant developments and gained wide-spread media exposure and public support, but still the Federal Government is swept up in a culture of denial. In what was considered an Australian-first, Bravehearts collaborated with Griffith University

on a video project to unearth testimonies from devastated parents, young people and whistle-blowers, all of whom have been left traumatised by the decisions made in the Family Court.

Bravehearts Founder Hetty Johnston AM, presented the project in Canberra to the Prime Minister's Office, as well as members of the Law Council of Australia, the Opposition and Senators including, Derryn Hinch, Jackie Lambie and Nick Xenophon. She also presented more than 60,000 signatures on a petition supporting Bravehearts' calls for a Royal Commission. This petition, led by a mother who lost her daughter Abbey to suicide following family court processes, has to date attracted almost 90,000 signatures on social justice platform change.org.au.

.....

**‘The Family Law System is the most dangerous institution for children in the country.’**

.....

Despite the archaic Family Law System copping decades of widespread and escalating condemnation by the community, the Prime Minister and Attorney-General are refusing to grant victims a Royal Commission, citing 'constitutional limitations'. Bravehearts has challenged this and obtained

constitutional legal advice, which contradicted the Prime Minister's excuse.

In an unprecedented move, Bravehearts has welcomed unified support by both men's and women's rights groups, child protection and sexual and domestic violence advocacy and support organisations, all pushing for urgent reform to protect children.

While it's difficult to find anyone who doesn't agree that a Royal Commission is the only legal framework capable of fixing this fundamentally-flawed system, the Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull and Attorney-General George Brandis, continue to deny children protection.

Recommendations to be released in the final report of the current Royal Commission may well inform future policy and legislation to improve responses to child sexual assault in many contexts, but a glaring omission will be the Family Law System – an institution seemingly immune from any outside scrutiny, accountability or transparency.

## Why is Bravehearts pushing for a Royal Commission into the Family Law System?

The Family Law System is the most dangerous institution for children in the country. It is uncoordinated, dysfunctional and broken. Bravehearts is aware that our most vulnerable young Australians – our children – are being sent to live with, or ordered contact with, sex offenders and abusive parents, leaving a trail of shattered children and protective parents behind.

## What are the issues?

Child protection is a statutory responsibility of the States and Territories who have the responsibility and expertise in this area, not the Commonwealth. However, in matters involving the Family Court, State and Territory child protection systems have abrogated their responsibilities to the Federal Courts, which are generally unequipped to decide matters of alleged child sexual assault.

For the States and Territories to fulfil their obligations to the nation's children, they must step up to their responsibilities and ensure government and non-government institutions properly investigate allegations of child abuse and child sexual assault and provide the 'expert' reports to the Federal Family Courts.

This will enable the Courts to make decisions according to their constitutional obligations and expertise in relation to custody arrangements and property distributions. It should not be left to the

Federal Courts to decide issues around the risk of harm to children. So long as this is allowed to occur, children will continue to be put at grave risk. Children caught up in this system don't need lawyers, they need psychologists, advocates and specialist support.

## Who is in this System?

This System includes judges, court staff, family court consultants, report writers, experts (employed or appointed by the court), internal and external legal representatives including children's lawyers, legal aid, private practitioners, Auscript, and all related State Government institutions. This includes, Police, Child Protection Services, Health and Education and all non-government organisations such as family relationship services, counselling services and supervision services.

## What is required?

For the Federal Government to make this a matter of priority and the Royal Commission to examine 50 case studies (provided by Bravehearts) where allegations of child sexual assault have occurred. This will collectively demonstrate the dysfunction routinely faced by children and their protective parents in the current Family Law System and to recommend reform measures, both legal and operational, that would defend the human rights of our nation's children to be protected from harm.

The Royal Commission is the only legal framework capable of negotiating and overcoming the significant constitutional, legal (Sec 121 & other privacy instruments), international (UNCROC) and Statutory (state based) hurdles necessary to properly and thoroughly investigate the failings of the current system, both state and federal and to instigate change.

Failing to do so puts the Government in breach of the United Nation's *Convention on the Rights of the Child*.

Article 19: Governments should ensure that children are properly cared for and protect them from violence, abuse and neglect by their parents, or anyone else who looks after them.

Article 34: Governments should protect children from sexual abuse.

**Bravehearts' Family Law System Project is privately funded by benefactor Lachlan McGillivray. Without his generous ongoing support, this project would not be possible.**



## Evidence-based lobbying for change

In line with *The 3 Piers to Prevention*, and supported by our Executive Research Advisory Panel, Bravehearts' research and lobbying is focused on building an evidence-based approach to the prevention of child sexual assault in our society, and ensuring that the safety and welfare of children is prioritised on all levels.

The key operational objectives of Bravehearts' research and lobbying are to:

- Strengthen research around child sexual harm (including online) so as to influence policy and legislation and secure Australia as leaders in child protection;
- Review all legislation to ensure the safety and protection of children from harm is the priority;
- Bring in appropriate sentencing for child sex offenders;
- Strengthen management and treatment policies for child sex offences (including specialised sex offender mental health units, expanding current registration legislation to allow for restricted notification, and polygraph testing);
- Support the development of Bravehearts' programs to ensure best-practice and evidence-based approaches.

Bravehearts' research is led by Carol Ronken, who in January was appointed Visting Fellow for a three year term in the school of Justice, Faculty of Law at Queensland University of Technology.

To ensure transparency and ethicacy, Bravehearts has an established Ethical Research Advisory Committee (ERAC). For a full list of current members of this Committee and our Executive Research Advisory Panel, please refer to page 45 of this report.

### Research projects

In the last financial year, Bravehearts' research focused on five key areas:

- Submissions to government and non-government inquiries, reviews and discussion papers;
- Lobbying;
- Development of research and position papers;
- Participation in working groups;
- Conferences and networking.

The past year has also seen our research team working on number of major projects. One of these is a project funded by Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety (ANROWS), titled *An Evaluation of Circles of Support and Accountability (South Australia) and the Reintegration of Indigenous Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act Perpetrators (Queensland)*. The project is led by researchers from the Crime and Justice Research Centre (CJRC) at Queensland University of Technology (QUT) and Bravehearts is on board in the role of victim advocacy.

### Lobbying and reform

Research forms an integral part of fighting for legislative and policy reform. When systems and policy is found lacking, Bravehearts fights for change to ensure the safety of children is prioritised above all other considerations.

Issues Bravehearts lobbied for this year include:

- Continued lobbying for a review of the Family Law System;
- Advocated for the continued detention of dangerous, repeat sex offenders, and pushed for the review of continued detention legislation;
- Advocated for a trial utilising polygraphs as a monitoring tool for released sex offenders;
- Requested appeals on a number of manifestly inadequate sentences handed down;
- Provided feedback on proposed legislative approaches to sexting;
- Advocated for reviews of cases where system failures had been identified.

## Online reporting removing barriers to disclosure

Reporting sexual assault to Police can be a daunting process for survivors. To help adult survivors break their silence, and aid prevention, Bravehearts developed the *Sexual Assault Disclosure Scheme (SADS)* - an online reporting tool designed to remove the barriers to reporting historic cases of child sexual assault.

SADS enables survivors to report (anonymously if they so wish), after which Bravehearts is able to offer support in the form of counselling and providing information to Police.

In the past year, Bravehearts has received almost a hundred online reports of child sexual assault from adult survivors. Every report is followed up by qualified, specially trained staff members. Many reports lead to criminal investigations and some have directly led to the prosecution of the perpetrators.

*Join the Dots* is another online reporting tool developed by Bravehearts and in partnership with Task Force Argos, Queensland Police. The online platform and phone App allows young people to easily report suspicious online behaviour or 'cyber creeps', helping to protect them, as well as younger children, from online predators.

This year, Bravehearts began work with the Queensland Family and Child Commission and the Queensland Department of Science, Information Technology and Innovation, to update *Join the Dots*, with specific attention to redeveloping the phone App.

**"I'm being taken seriously and finally an investigation is underway."**

**"A positive has been telling of the details to the police in the hope he is stopped from any ongoing child sexual abuse."**

**"As a result of SADS the person has been charged and court case held."**

**"I made a report to Police on advice of therapists and felt some relief after handing it over to the State for investigation."**

*Feedback from users of Bravehearts' Sexual Assault Disclosure Scheme*



# Bravehearts' Children's Advocacy Centre

Children's Advocacy Centres originated in the United States in the eighties. Social service and criminal justice systems at the time were not working together effectively, creating a segmented, repetitious, and often frightening experience for children. The end result would be that children were often re-traumatised by the process.

Recognising that children were being further harmed, the concept for the Children's Advocacy Centre (CAC) was conceived. There are now more than 800 Child Advocacy Centres across the US.

Bravehearts has been actively seeking to establish a CAC in Australia for a number of years. Key Bravehearts staff members have travelled to the US to learn more about CACs and see them in operation. With sponsorship from Google, Bravehearts representatives attended the 'International Crimes Against Children Conference' in Dallas and were fortunate enough to connect with Dallas Children's Advocacy Centre's CEO, Mr Lynn Davis, who allowed our staff to see the inner-workings of the Dallas CAC. In support of Bravehearts bringing the highly successful CAC model to Australia, Mr Davis provided Bravehearts with detailed construction plans, fit out requirements and operational information.

After several years of research and planning, Bravehearts is excited to announce that with funding assistance from the Queensland State Government and private philanthropic support, we will be piloting the forensic interviewing process at our head office, in Arundel, Queensland. This pilot will utilise the multi-disciplinary team approach and once the evaluation is complete, we are hopeful this will bring about implementation of a full-scale CAC.

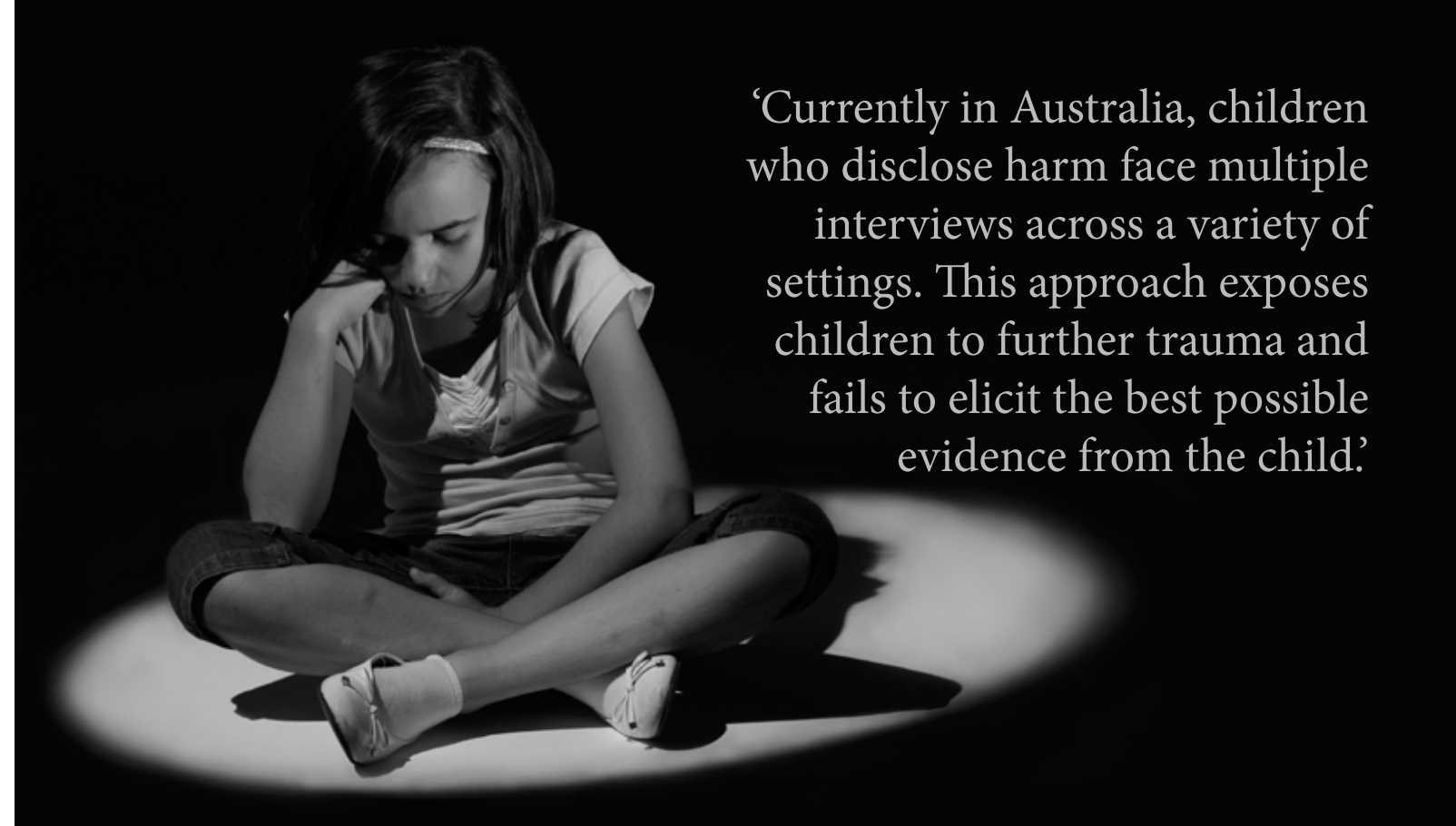
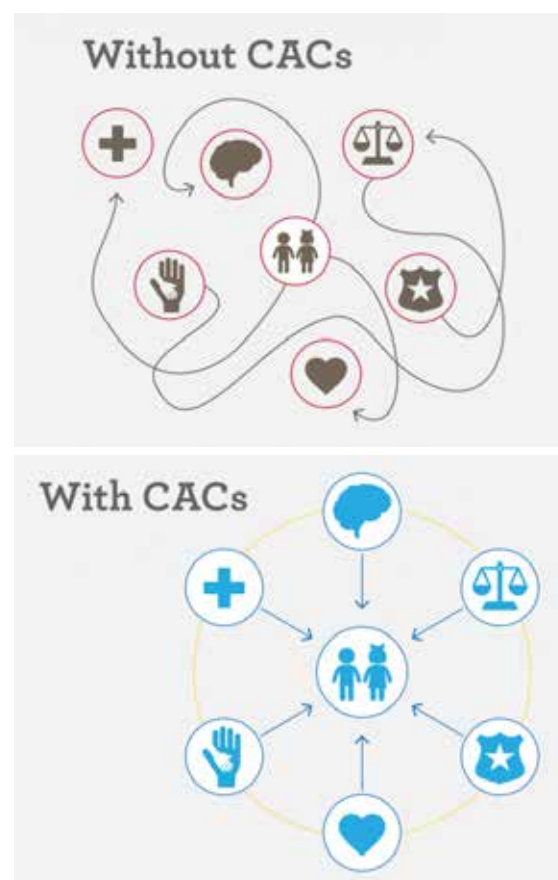
## Why do we need this model in Australia?

Currently in Australia, children who disclose harm face multiple interviews with clinicians, police, child safety, court personnel and medical professionals across a variety of settings. This approach exposes children to further trauma, and fails to elicit the best possible evidence from the child. Repeat interviews can be confusing and cause children to give inconsistent evidence, which in many cases

will lead to the perpetrator not being prosecuted. Children may be traumatised further when having to give account of the harm to multiple professionals in multiple locations. Children who disclose harm to a trusted adult are incredibly brave, often doing so under threats of harm by the perpetrator to the child or their loved ones if they ever disclose. Repeat interviews under pressure of threats increases the likelihood the child will retract their statement or provide inconsistent evidence.

Further trauma may be experienced by children who have disclosed sexual assault whereby no action is taken, increasing the chance they will avoid disclosing harm into the future.

Most cases of child sexual assault do not involve any physical evidence. The only evidence available to demonstrate that harm has occurred is the testimony provided by the victim. It is therefore imperative that the child is supported to provide a full account during the interview, in a manner which elicits the necessary information but minimises the likelihood that the child will be traumatised by the experience. The CAC method was designed to make this possible.



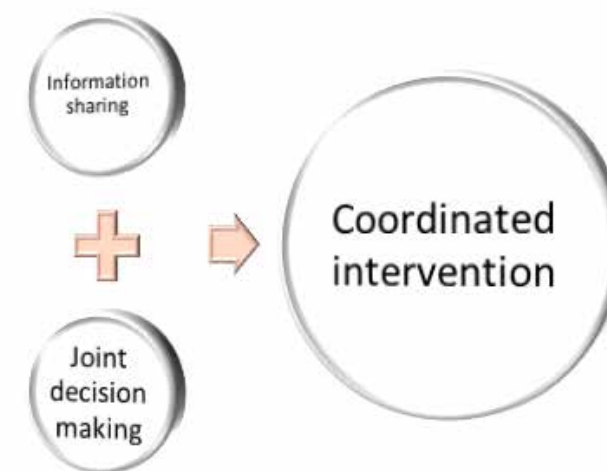
'Currently in Australia, children who disclose harm face multiple interviews across a variety of settings. This approach exposes children to further trauma and fails to elicit the best possible evidence from the child.'

## How do Child Advocacy Centres work?

The CAC method is a holistic and far more economical, transparent, productive, collaborative and sustainable model. It involves all parties, including the Police, Department of Public Prosecutions (DPP), Child Safety, Health, and a child protection non-government organisation (NGO) (in this instance, Bravehearts will be the lead NGO), and is based on three common principles; information sharing; coordinated intervention; and joint decision making.

Responses to disclosures are dealt with collaboratively from the outset and client files include all information to meet the necessary requirements of each of the disciplines. Child interviews are conducted by specifically trained forensic interviewers. Department of Public Prosecutions, Child Safety, Police and the advocate view the interview from another room. All involved have the ability to feed through specific questions their professional discipline requires via a discreet video and audio feed, with all parties ensuring best outcomes for the child.

Collaborative decision making can occur immediately by all parties present. Whether this be a decision to refer to criminal proceedings based on strength of evidence or, failing enough evidence, based on agreed balance of probabilities, the child is provided with an agreed safety case plan. The interview is also recorded and can be used as evidence in court, reducing the likelihood that the child will be required to give evidence in court.



A CAC provides an economy of time, expertise and response for all concerned, while largely avoiding duplication, issues with information sharing, and lack of consensus around appropriate responses. Bravehearts is proud to create an environment where government services, NGOs and community services can work collaboratively to achieve a common goal – to protect Australia's children.





# Campaigns Fundraising Media

## Snapshot of results



**102,478** combined followers across all Bravehearts' social media accounts.

Followers across Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and Twitter, as at June 30, 2017.



**341,909** visitors to Bravehearts website.

Number of visitors between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017. The most viewed page (excluding the homepage) was our Education and Training page.



**7,350** kilometres ran in total by the 'national runners' in Bravehearts' 777 Marathon, 2017.

Now in its fourth year, Bravehearts' 777 Marathon is one of our major annual fundraising campaigns and sees participants complete seven marathons, across seven states, in seven consecutive days.



**591** individual fundraising events registered nationally for White Balloon Day 2016.

White Balloon Day is Bravehearts' signature awareness and fundraising campaign. 2016 marked the 20th year of White Balloon Day and the event was well supported by the Australian public, with businesses, schools, childcare centres, organisations and individuals helping to 'break the silence' around child sexual assault.



**1,978** earned media articles about the work of Bravehearts were published by third-party media outlets.

Includes earned media published both in traditional print media and digital media between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017.



# Raising funds and building awareness

Enabling our work and helping us to achieve our Mission of preventing child sexual assault, are Bravehearts' fundraising and awareness campaigns, including *White Balloon Day* and *Bravehearts' 777 Marathon*.

These campaigns help support the work we do towards *The 3 Piers*, and play an essential role in educating the public about child sexual assault prevention.

## White Balloon Day

Bravehearts' flagship awareness and fundraising campaign is White Balloon Day - Australia's largest campaign dedicated to preventing child sexual assault.

For 20 years White Balloon Day has united communities annually to break the silence on child sexual assault and make a commitment to protecting the children of Australia. To date, funds raised as part of White Balloon Day have helped to educate over 750,000 children across Australia about personal safety.

The 2016 White Balloon Day campaign, funded by Department of Social Services National Initiatives, asked supporters to take 'Australia's biggest child protection challenge' by raising funds and awareness.

More than \$150,000 was raised via third-party events, the White Balloon Day Gala (held in Brisbane), and fundraising merchandise.

The campaign was strongly supported by not only schools, businesses and individuals, but also our ambassadors, local councils, State and Federal Police, and State and Federal Government.

**"White Balloon Day galvanises communities to take action across Australia to keep kids safe."**

~ The Hon. Malcolm Turnbull, MP  
Prime Minister of Australia



# \$152,753

Total funds raised for the prevention of child sexual assault during the 2016 White Balloon Day campaign.



## 777 Marathon

Bravehearts' 777 Marathon this year attracted 276 participants. The event comprises of seven 42.2 kilometre marathons, which are run in seven states over seven consecutive days.

Two levels of runners participate in the event; 'national runners', who travel together over the seven days and run in all seven marathons, and 'state runners', who run in only one of the seven marathons. National runners raise a minimum of \$10,000 each for Bravehearts and state runners raise a minimum of \$150.

This year's 777 Marathon raised over \$328,000 for the prevention of child sexual assault and generated an invaluable amount of awareness through media coverage of national runners.

## National Headquarters building project

Bravehearts received the ultimate Christmas present this year with the gift of a completed second level to our National Headquarters at Arundel, Gold Coast.

The expansion, worth \$1.3 million, was only possible due to the donated time, expertise, skills and supplies of Hutchinson Builders, their generous subcontractors, and of course, Bravehearts' Kayleen Johnston, who used her powers of persuasion to secure Hutchinson's commitment to the project.

Hutchinson Builders and their subcontractors rallied behind our cause, donating not only their time, but everything from paint, concrete, windows and doors.

Bravehearts is so grateful to everyone involved in the building project. The new level allows our counselling, education, case management, research, lobbying and administration teams to now work together under the same roof, saving the organisation close to \$60,000 in rent annually, as well as increasing productivity so we are better able to help survivors and their families.

## Third-party fundraising events

Outside of our two key annual fundraising campaigns, Bravehearts is fortunate to have many dedicated supporters who work tirelessly throughout the year to fundraise on our behalf. The top five third-party fundraising events held in the last financial year were - Claude Harvey's *Mowerthons; To Have and to Hold* event at Gambaro's Restaurant; *Hats for High Tea*, organised by Belinda K Messer; Gala dinner, hosted by Susan Ryman-Kiernan; *Brewing Funds for Bravehearts*, held at Burleigh Brewing Co.



## Mowerman Claude one-in-a-million

National treasure and 70 year-old grandfather, Claude Harvey (pictured above), has fundraised a staggering \$905,000 for Bravehearts over the past decade (as of June 30, 2017). This financial year alone Claude raised \$99,271 from his famous *Mowerthons*.

Pushing his lawnmower from town-to-town all over Australia, Claude 'the Mowerman' is a mere few thousand dollars away from reaching his fundraising goal of one million dollars.

"My ultimate goal is to reach \$1million to continue funding education and counselling programs for children and families affected by child sexual assault," says Claude.



# Breaking the silence in the media

Bravehearts has a strong presence across both traditional and digital media, using our voice to speak out for survivors, advocate for children and educate the public about issues surrounding the crime of child sexual assault.

Keeping the conversation going in the media is integral to Bravehearts' Vision of making Australia the safest place in the world to raise a child. Twenty years ago, few Australians would have seen the term 'child sexual assault' in the news, let alone known how to talk about it and how to prevent it.

Now, with two decades of Bravehearts talking to the media about this crime, Australians have the language to talk about child sexual assault and the knowledge to prevent it.

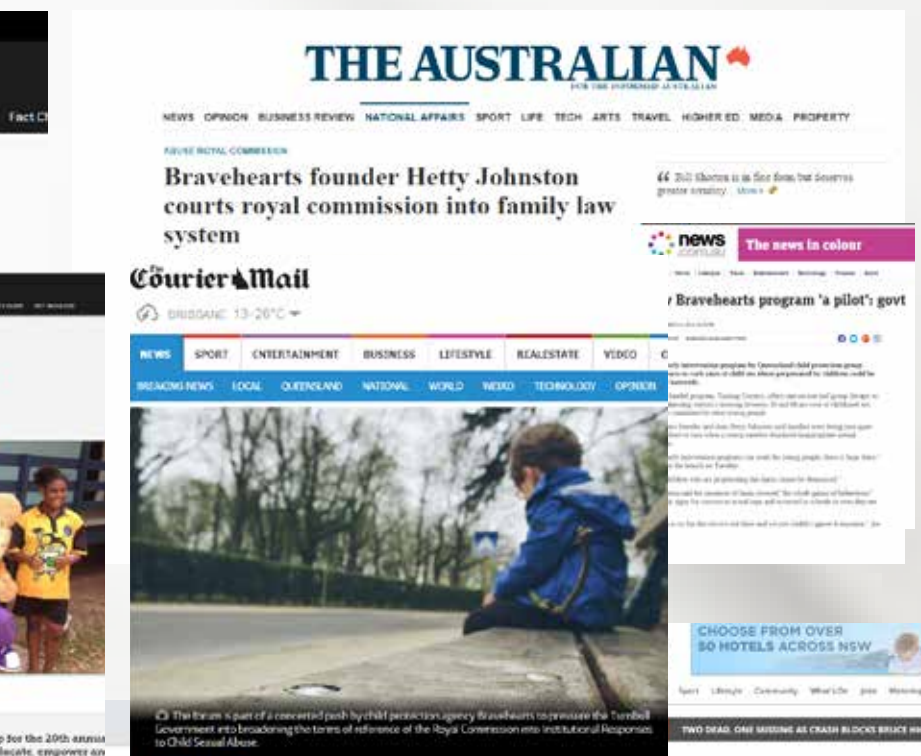
In the last financial year, almost 36,000 news articles (including print and digital media) related to child sexual assault and child abuse were published by Australia's major news corporations.

The level of conversation is staggering compared to the cone of silence that once surrounded this crime. Bravehearts alone earned close to 2,000 earned published articles across both print and digital media this year.

This media coverage focused strongly on our call for a Royal Commission into the Family Law System, as well as articles related to *White Balloon Day*, *Turning Corners* and *777 Marathon*.

“I can see where Australia needs to be in order to be the safest place in the world to raise a child in terms of sexual assault. I can see it... I know it's real and I'm not going to stop until we have it.”

~ Hetty Johnston AM







# Our People

## Working to protect Aussie kids



70

Total number of staff employed by Bravehearts across multiple sites in QLD, NSW, TAS and VIC.

2683

Total hours donated by volunteers in the last financial year.

“I’m so thankful to be working for such an amazing organisation with an incredible team of people. Never did I think prior to working for Bravehearts that I would truly feel blessed, supported, encouraged and valued in a workplace. I am the happiest I have ever been in my working career.”

~ Steve Ball, Case Manager

“Every day I am lucky enough to combine my profession with my passion. I couldn’t imagine working anywhere else with a more committed, focused team, all working on the same Mission. There is nothing more important to me than our kids, and through my work with Bravehearts, I get to play a part in helping to keep them safe.”

~ Sharon Lansley,  
National Education Manager

“Being a part of Bravehearts’ Mission to prevent child sexual assault is a powerfully humbling privilege, immensely invigorating and rewarding. The opportunity I am afforded in my role as an educator, presenting *Ditto’s Keep Safe Adventure* in schools and childcare centres, reminds me every day of the importance of our Mission. Bravehearts as an employer ensures I feel valued and supported; this is how I am able to continue to strive to make Australia the safest place to raise a child.”

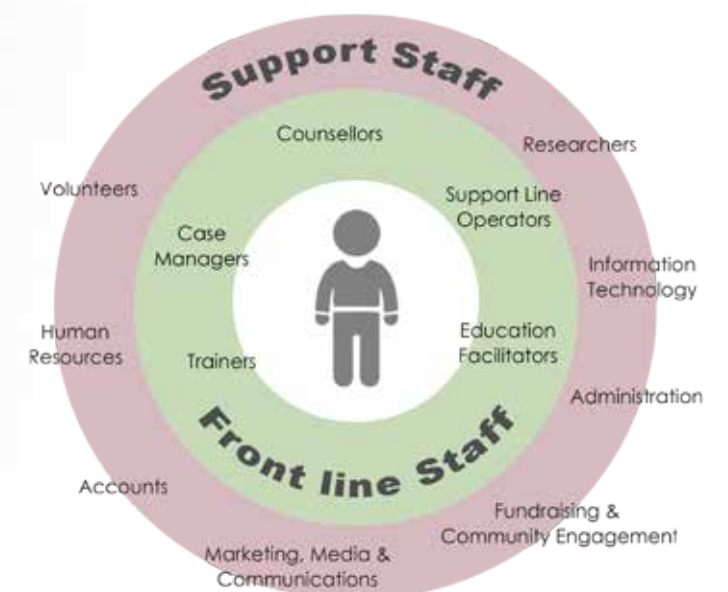
~ Jeanette Prince, Education Coordinator Tasmania

“Working with Bravehearts has ignited a strong passion for child protection and inspired me to continue my career advocating to keep children safe. I feel Bravehearts has been key in growing and emphasising my strengths and skills and offer ongoing support in building my career.”

~ Sarah Tolcher, Operations Quality Coordinator

“Working for Bravehearts, I feel as though I am contributing daily towards making the world a better place for my own and all Australian children.”

~ Zoe Hermans, Marketing Manager







# Financials

## Financial overview

The following provides an overview of Bravehearts' financial position, revenue and expenditure for the financial year ending June 30 2017. Detailed financial results are available in Bravehearts' audited Annual Financial Report.

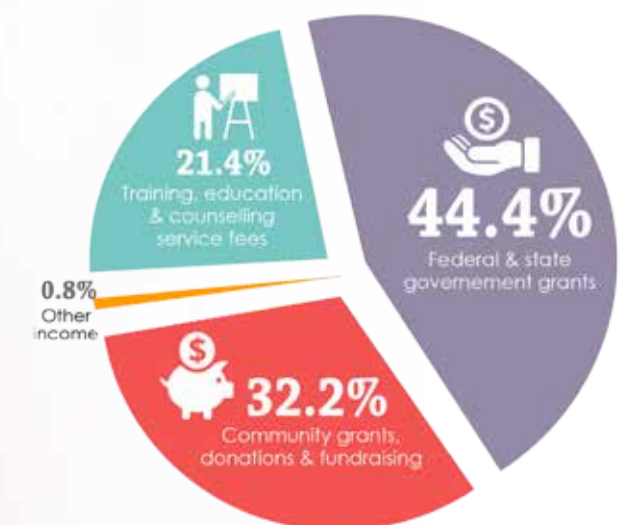
Bravehearts had an operating surplus of \$930,497 for the fiscal year ended 30 June 2017, including a capital asset donation of \$1,078,869 for the cost of the Arundel building addition, received as an in-kind contribution.

### Revenues

Operating income for the year ended 2017 was \$5,945,460, down from \$6,075,721 for the year ended 30 June 2016.

Revenues from federal, state and government contracts and grants dropped to 44.4% for the year ended 30 June 2017 from 54.7% in the previous year. Revenues from recurring federal, state and government contracts and grants are expected to decrease to under 30% of total operating revenues after the expiration of the Royal Commission grant at 30 June 2018. This will have a significant impact on Bravehearts' fundraising requirements and strategies.

Sources of Revenue  
2016-2017 Financial Year



Total Revenue  
**\$5,945,460**

Breakdown of Expenditure  
2016-2017 Financial Year



### Expenditures

Expenditures for the year ended 30 June 2017 totalled \$6,093,961, of which \$5,313,934 was spent on service delivery, awareness and fundraising campaigns.

### Financial sustainability

Bravehearts continues to evolve its financial strategies in an environment of funding challenges and continued demand for essential services.

Significant decreases in the portion of revenues derived from government contracts and grants will drive future fundraising strategies and activities to assure that Bravehearts continues to achieve its essential Mission.



## Financial statement 2016-17 financial year

Bravehearts Foundation Limited ABN 41 496 913 890

### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS JUNE 30 2017

	2017 \$	2016 \$
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	2,361,029	3,142,256
Accounts receivable and other debtors	225,910	57,632
Inventories on hand	98,694	130,715
Other current assets	37,598	62,664
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>2,723,231</b>	<b>3,393,267</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Property, plant and equipment	2,497,715	1,020,891
Intangible assets	15,872	-
Financial assets	316,078	-
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>2,829,665</b>	<b>1,020,891</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>5,552,896</b>	<b>4,414,158</b>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Accounts payable and other payables	1,660,636	1,504,618
Borrowings	30,861	53,905
Employee provisions	266,373	245,072
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>1,957,870</b>	<b>1,803,595</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Borrowings	66,710	31,942
Employee provisions	36,633	17,435
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>103,343</b>	<b>49,377</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>2,061,213</b>	<b>1,852,972</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>3,491,683</b>	<b>2,561,186</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>		
Retained surplus	3,491,683	2,561,186
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	<b>3,491,683</b>	<b>2,561,186</b>

## Grants and funding 2016-17 financial year

### ALH Group Pty Ltd

**\$50,000** to fund work on Abbey's Project and Bravehearts' call for a Royal Commission into the Family Law System of Australia.

### Aurizon Community Giving Fund

**\$18,993** to help fund the building of a Forensic Interview Room at Bravehearts' National Headquarters.

### Department of Communities, QLD

**\$890,911** to help fund counselling for children in South East Queensland who have been harmed and their families.

### Department of Communities, QLD

**\$50,000** to fund the professional evaluation Bravehearts' Turning Corners program.

### Department of Communities, QLD

**\$178,565** to help fund counselling for children in North Brisbane who have been harmed and their families.

### Department of Education, Tasmania

**\$200,000** for the delivery of Ditto's Keep Safe Adventure Show to 21,685 children in Tasmania.

### Department of Social Services

**\$200,000** to raise national awareness about the crime and child sexual assault and its prevention through 2016's White Balloon Day campaign.

### Department of Social Services

**\$258,422** for the delivery of Ditto's Keep Safe Adventure Show to 28,261 children in Cairns and Far North Qld.

### Department of Social Services

**\$232,000** (received 16/17 financial year) for the delivery of Ditto's Keep Safe Adventure Show to children in Cairns and Far North Qld for 2017/18 financial year.

### Department of Social Services

**\$770,000** for the provision of case management, counselling and phone support to adult survivors involved in the Royal Commission.

### Erica Foundation Pty Ltd

**\$75,000** funding towards creating online training content and provision of program delivery costs for Turning Corners program.

### Gambling Community Benefit Fund

**\$34,161** towards building a Forensic Interview Room at Bravehearts' National Headquarters.

### Geelong Community Foundation

**\$14,000** for the delivery of Ditto's Keep Safe Adventure Show to 2333 children in Geelong, Victoria.

### Give Where You Live

**\$14,950** for the delivery of Ditto's Keep Safe Adventure Show to 4500 children in Geelong, Victoria.

### Google Australia Pty Ltd

**\$10,000** towards the cost of travel for key staff to attend international child protection conferences.

### Hobart City Council

**\$3,000** for the delivery of Ditto's Keep Safe Adventure Show to childcare centres in Hobart, Tasmania.

### Perpetual Impact Philanthropy

**\$19,500** for the delivery of Ditto's Keep Safe Adventure Show to 3,000 children in Geelong, Victoria.

### Private (Anonymous) Foundation

**\$107,200** towards the provision of program delivery for the Gold Coast Turning Corners Service.

### Private (Anonymous) Foundation

**\$127,040** for the delivery of Ditto's Keep Safe Adventure Show to children on the Gold Coast, Queensland and in Northern New South Wales.

### Private (Anonymous) Foundation

**\$406,000** for the purchase or building of a Bravehearts branch in Armidale, New South Wales, for the purpose of providing vital services to the region, with a focus on working in collaboration with the local indigenous community.

### Savannah Family Foundation

**\$10,000** to support Bravehearts' special projects and advocacy work, as well as the Where's William campaign.

### Shoalhaven City Council

**\$5,000** towards vehicle costs involved in the delivery of Ditto's Keep Safe Adventure Show to children in Shoalhaven, NSW.





## Ambassadors

**James Courtney**, V8 Super Car Driver, Holden  
**Natalie Gruzlewski**, TV Presenter, Channel 9  
**Larrissa Miller**, Olympic Gymnast  
**Amy Cure**, Olympic Cyclist  
**Nichola Turner**, Womens over 30s Surfing Champion  
**Heidi Middleton**, Co-Creator of Sass & Bide  
**Peta Searle**, Assistant Coach, St Kilda FC  
**Jimmy Maher**, Ex-Cricketer  
**Kristina Costalos**, Journalist, Channel 10  
**Katrina Davidson**, Comedian and Broadcaster, ABC Radio  
**Edwinda Royce**, Actress, House Husbands  
**Duncan Armstrong**, Olympic Gold Medalist  
**Ray Hadley**, Broadcaster, 2GB Radio  
**Matt Doran**, TV Presenter, Crime Watch Daily  
**Lisa Gormley**, Actress  
**Laura Turner**, Journalist, Channel 9

## Ethical Research Advisory Committee

**Professor Daryl Higgins**, Australian Catholic University  
**Associate Professor Kieran McCartan**, Health and Social Sciences, University of the West of England  
**Dr Nadine McKillop**, University of the Sunshine Coast  
**Dr Kerryann Walsh**, Queensland University of Technology  
**Carol Ronken**, Director of Research, Bravehearts  
**Dr Deirdre Thompson**, Director of Operations, Bravehearts

## Bravehearts has been actively involved in the following working groups this financial year:

- The Federal Government's Online Safety Consultative Working Group
- Federal Government's Online Safety Community Sub-committee
- Federal Government's Online Safety Contact and Content Sub-committee
- The National Coalition of Organisations Committed to the Safety and Wellbeing of Australia's Children
- Victim Services Interagency Organisation Network, Queensland
- Queensland Child Protection Advocates
- Victim Support Australasia
- PeakCare Queensland
- Queensland Council of Social Services
- Queensland Family and Child Commission - Advisory Council
- Queensland Family and Child Commission – Darknet Steering Committee
- Queensland Family & Child Commission – Blue Card & Foster Care Expert Panel
- Twitter's Trust and Safety Council

## Executive Research Advisory Panel

**Dr Jenine Beekhuyzen**, Founder and CEO of Tech Girls Movement  
**Peter Bickford**, Barrister  
**Francesca Brown**, Child and Youth Forensic Outreach Services, Children's Health Queensland  
**Professor Leonie Callaway**, Centre for Clinical Research, Faculty of Medicine, University of Queensland  
**Associate Professor Annie Cossins**, Faculty of Law, University of New South Wales  
**Barbara Cox**, Sequel Communications  
**Philip Crawford**, Henry Davis York Lawyers  
**Dr Larissa Christensen**, School of Criminology and Criminal Justice, Griffith University  
**Dr Melissa Curley**, Political Science and International Studies, University of Queensland  
**Dr Jodi Death**, School of Justice, Queensland University of Technology  
**Associate Professor Michael Flood**, ARC Future Fellow, Faculty of Law, Queensland University of Technology  
**Dr Terry Goldsworthy**, Faculty of Society and Design, Bond University  
**Dr Margaret Hardy**, Centre for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta USA  
**Professor Daryl Higgins**, Institute of Child Protection Studies, Australian Catholic University  
**Professor Mark Kebbell**, School of Applied Psychology, Griffith University  
**Greg Layton**, Neurosport  
**Dr Ben Mathews**, Faculty of Law, Queensland University of Technology  
**Professor Paul Mazerolle**, Violence Research and Prevention Program, Griffith University  
**Associate Professor Kieran McCartan**, Health and Social Sciences, University of the West of England  
**Dr Elspeth McInnes**, School of Education, University of South Australia  
**Dr Nadine McKillop**, University of the Sunshine Coast  
**Jillian Milford-Burgess**, Henry Davis York Lawyers  
**Anthony Pillion**, Webshield  
**Associate Professor Aileen Pidgeon**, Faculty of Society and Design, Bond University  
**Dr Kelly Richards**, School of Justice, Queensland University of Technology  
**Professor Boni Robertson**, Office of Indigenous Community Engagement, Policy and Partnerships, Griffith University  
**Detective Inspector Jon Rouse**, Taskforce Argos, Queensland Police Service  
**Tracey Ryan**, Lawyer  
**Damian Scattini**, Partner at Quinn Emanuel Trial Lawyers  
**Professor Caroline Taylor**, Founder and Chair at Children of Phoenix Organisation  
**Dr Kerryann Walsh**, Faculty of Education, Queensland University of Technology



# Recognising our supporters and Partners

Bravehearts presents valued supporters each year with a ThankShoe Award to acknowledge their contribution to child protection in Australia.

Our sincerest thanks to the following businesses, corporations, agencies, organisations and individuals that have supported the work of Bravehearts in a variety of ways in the past 12 months or longer.

On behalf of the kids of Australia, survivors and their families, we 'ThankShoe'.

## Platinum Supporters

*(For the donation of funds and/or goods & services to the value of \$100,000 and over)*

Australian Federal Police  
Erica Foundation  
Qld Police Service - Taskforce Argos  
Qld Police Service - Child Protection and Investigation Units  
Qld Police Service - Child Abuse and Sexual Crime Group

## Gold Supporters

*(For the donation of funds and/or goods & services to the value of \$50,000 and over)*

Shibusu Pty Ltd  
GV CASA

## Silver Supporters

*(For the donation of funds and/or goods & services to the value of \$25,000 and over)*

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Moreton Bay Regional Council  
Spell Clothing  
Gambling Community Benefit Fund

## Bronze Supporters

*(For the donation of funds and/or goods & services to the value of \$10,000 and over)*

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Black & White Cabs  
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Rhapsodate Consulting  
Ms Lee Rose

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Australian Framing Solutions	Marvan Stairs & Balustrading
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ATF Fencing	Mirage
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Aussie Height Safety	Navaska
Auzmet Architectural	Octeros Cabinets
Baron Forge	Onsite Fastenings
Big River Timbers	Planet Plumbing Group
Bluescope Steel	Peter Johnston Tiling
Boys Bay Group	Penfold Projects
Carter Holt Harvey	Quality Fire Protection
CASA	Ringwood & Ply
Coates Hire	Relient Demolition and Asbestos Removal
Cogent Scaffolding	Ron Hudd Building Services
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## Our Partners



HENRY DAVIS YORK



- Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services
- Department of Education - Tasmania
- Department of Social Services
- Lachlan McGillivray
- Claude Harvey

## Partner with Bravehearts

There is no other investment that will give you a greater return

By becoming a corporate partner or sponsor of Bravehearts, you'll be actively contributing to making Australia safer for our children.

Our partnership opportunities include financial and non-financial assistance and are tailored to ensure that all parties benefit from the collaboration.

To discuss these opportunities in more detail, please contact Kayleen Johnston on 07 5552 3000 or email [kayleenj@bravehearts.org.au](mailto:kayleenj@bravehearts.org.au)







**Bravehearts**

Educate Empower Protect  
Our Kids