

Bravehearts Position Statement



Safety and Internet Dating Sites

The recent arrest of a 55 year old man charged with using the internet to procure a child under 16 after grooming a mother he met through a dating site, is a timely reminder that offenders do not just groom children but also parents.

With around 1.5 million online dating profiles in Australia, Queensland Police have recently put out a warning regarding a disturbing online trend where child sex offenders are targeting single mothers on internet dating sites in order to access their children.

Bravehearts advises people to exercise caution and only include basic information in online profiles (whether an internet dating site or a social networking site). Don't advertise that you have children or include images of your children on internet dating sites; these are details that offenders are specifically looking for.

If you have any concerns about individuals who contact you through the internet, you should report this to the police. For advice on internet safety or who to contact about concerns, please contact Bravehearts: www.bravehearts.org.au or 1800 272 831.

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