

ABOUT BRAVEHEARTS

Established in 1996, Bravehearts is an Australian child protection organisation. Bravehearts' Mission is to provide a coordinated and holistic approach to the prevention and treatment of child sexual abuse. Bravehearts' Vision is a world where people, communities and systems all work together to protect children from sexual abuse.

WHAT WE DO

Bravehearts pursues its Mission and Vision through:

- **Personal Safety Education:** Bravehearts works to prevent child sexual abuse by educating children and young people about personal safety, including body ownership, cyber-safety and consent. Bravehearts' flagship program is Ditto's Keep Safe Adventure (for children aged 3 to 8).
- **Counselling & Support:** Bravehearts works to treat child sexual abuse through the provision of affordable counselling and support for children (and their non-offending family members) affected by this crime, a national Information and Support Line (1800 272 831), child and family advocacy, case management for adult survivors seeking Redress, and therapeutic intervention for children and young people with harmful sexual behaviours.
- **Child Protection Training & Advisory:** Bravehearts works to prevent child sexual abuse by training individuals and advising organisations on how to better respond to and prevent child safety issues.
- **Research & Reform:** Bravehearts works to prevent and treat child sexual abuse by ensuring our education programs, counselling services and training is backed by current, evidence-based research, and by advocating for legislative reform that works in the best interest of children, young people and survivors of child sexual abuse.

WHY WE DO IT

- Child sexual abuse is a **global problem** that knows no physical, financial, socioeconomic, geographic, cultural or gender boundaries.
- All forms of child sexual abuse are a **profound violation of the human rights** of the child and a crime under law. The impacts of this crime are far-reaching for children, families and communities.
- Children who have been sexually abused can suffer a range of **psychological and behavioural problems**, ranging from mild to severe, both in the short and long term. Effects of the abuse can vary, however children who are believed when they first disclose and are given the right type of therapeutic support, are less likely to endure long term negative impacts.
- Approximately **1 in 5 Australian children** will experience child sexual abuse¹. It's a crime that affects all races, economic classes, cultural groups and genders. Children of all ages are abused, even toddlers and babies².
- In **at least 90%** of child sexual abuse cases, the offender is known to the family³.

1. Mills, Kisely, Alati, Strathearn, & Najman, 2016. 2. James, 2000; Centre for Disease Control & Prevention, 2006; Collin-Vézina, Daigneault, & Hébert, 2013; Dube et al., 2005. 3. Australian Bureau of Statistics 2017.

