



OUR IMPACT

2022/2023

Bravehearts

EDUCATE + EMPOWER + PROTECT

ABOUT US

Founded in 1997, Bravehearts' **Mission** is to provide a coordinated and holistic approach to the prevention and treatment of child sexual abuse. Our **Vision** is a world where people, communities and systems all work together to protect children from sexual abuse.

Bravehearts strives toward our Mission and Vision by **educating** children and young people about personal safety, and training adults in child protection; **empowering** children, families and adults affected by child sexual abuse through our counselling, support and redress services, and; **protecting** children through research, advocacy, and lobbying for legislative reform that works the best interest of children, young people and adult survivors of child sexual abuse.



Bravehearts is a LGBTQIA+ safe service provider and an equal opportunity employer.



Bravehearts is an Australian Registered Charity
All donations over \$2 are tax deductible
ABN 41 496 913 890 ACN 607 315 917



Bravehearts is a Human Services Quality Framework (HSQF) compliant organisation.



Bravehearts is a Registered NDIS Service Provider.

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This Impact Report is dedicated in loving memory
of our colleague and friend, Mandy Kay Browne
26/07/1967 - 26/11/2022



Bravehearts acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land and waters on which we work and recognises their continuing connection to land, water and community.

We pay respect to Elders past and present and extend respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and hope and believe that we can move together to a place of equity, justice and partnership. We acknowledge that sovereignty has never been ceded.

MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

“Preventing and treating the sexual harm of children demands a whole of community approach and only then, one collective step at a time, can we begin to change these statistics for Australian children and their families. All of us must play our part; child sexual abuse is preventable; the time is now.”



I’m privileged to present the 2023 Bravehearts Impact Report acknowledging and celebrating the important work of our dedicated team members as we strive each day towards our Mission and Vision.

Bravehearts is committed to the prevention and treatment of child sexual abuse.

In April 2023, the groundbreaking Australian Child Maltreatment Study (ACMS) was released, a first of its kind for Australia. This study cemented the ‘urgent national challenge’ of preventing child sexual abuse. The study showed 28.5% of Australians had been sexually abused as a child, 1 in 3 girls and 1 in 5 boys, these staggering statistics further demonstrate the challenge to our society of inaction. Collectively, we as a country must do all we can to ensure the protection and brightness of future for our most vulnerable, our children.

Over this past year, Bravehearts has been working toward our goals of educating, empowering, and protecting those impacted by child sexual abuse. Within this Impact Report lay the details of that important work.

Our commitment to reconciliation through the Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) is at Reflect phase. Our RAP is driven by an internal Committee and Chair. This year we have strengthened the ongoing cultural information sharing across the committee members and broader staff. These important learning opportunities have enriched our knowledge broadly. The opportunity to yarn on a number of topics and inviting local elders to share stories with our team has been elevate our staff’s appetite for deeper understanding and connection to our first nation’s peoples.

This year we launched updates to our important personal safety program for children aged 3-8, Ditto’s Keep Safe Adventure Program. Now an Australian Curriculum aligned program full of purposeful, practical and cause connected classroom ready resources, this program ensures teaching personal safety in an education setting is easily accessible for teachers. The new program includes an Early Learning Framework aligned program for childcare aged children, with detailed and age-appropriate resources. The Ditto’s Keep Safe Adventure live show has also been reinvigorated with new material, 5 new songs and the introduction of new characters to help Ditto teach his important rules for keeping safe. Additionally, new resources for parents and carers are also available.

Bravehearts’ adult Training programs are online with a suite of newly created materials ensuring adults in child facing organisations have access to learnings critical to providing a holistic approach to prevention. Adults being motivated, trained and aware is key to ensure the responsibility of protecting children from sexual harm is a whole of community approach.

Bravehearts’ Therapeutic and Support Services continue to deliver bespoke, specialist counselling and wraparound support services to those impacted by child sexual abuse. Bravehearts frontline team members worked tirelessly across the year, demonstrating their ongoing commitment to heal a child, support an adult as they navigate redress, change the trajectory of a young person’s life with harmful sexual behaviours, and assist a child and family as they navigate trauma.

The scale of the crime is evident in the ongoing demand for our services as they continue to rise each year. This purpose-driven work is at the heart of Bravehearts commitment to our Mission and Vision.

Our dedication to raising awareness and funds continued over the year with vigour. The success of our signature events and initiatives reflects the connections the Community Engagement team have with stakeholders, corporate partners and donors, to ensure that our critical fundraising targets are realised.

Through a collaborative mindset, we strengthened partnerships with police, government at all levels, and other child protection organisations. Most notable of these collaborations is the formation of e-kidna, a collaboration between, Bravehearts, Act for Kids and The Daniel Morcombe Foundation, working together with our shared purpose to multiply our collective reach and impact in the fight against child sexual abuse.

The importance of an evidence-based approach to our Mission is highlighted through our Research and Advocacy contributions across the year over many projects and submissions. Bravehearts continues to contribute to the important discussions at an implementation level, ensuring the voice of the survivor can be heard at the policy level.

Our work is far from complete, and the enormity of our Mission remains vast. Preventing and treating the sexual harm of children demands a whole of community approach and only then, one collective step at a time, can we begin to change these statistics for Australian children and their families. All of us must play our part; child sexual abuse is preventable; the time is now.

To those who support Bravehearts’ work, our dedicated team members, National Board, volunteers, partners, stakeholders, and individuals, we cannot do our work without you, and we offer our deepest thanks and gratitude. Your support is immeasurable.

To survivors, we honour you, we see you, the Brave Hearts.

Alison Gleave

CEO
Bravehearts Foundation

All statistics referenced below are from the Australian Child Maltreatment Study (ACMS) Key Findings, 2023.




More than **1 in 4** Australians have experienced child sexual abuse.

4



More than **1 in 3 girls** and almost **1 in 5 boys** experience child sexual abuse in Australia.

5



78% The percentage of Australian children who have been sexually abused **more than once.**

5



1 in 12 Australian young people were **raped** in childhood.

5

OUR YEAR AT A GLANCE

2022/2023

7,337 

connections made to Bravehearts' **Information and Support Line** (via phone, email, website and other channels).



4,149 

counselling sessions delivered by Bravehearts' **Therapeutic Services** Team to children and families **affected by child sexual abuse**.

8,741 

sessions delivered by Bravehearts' **Beyond Brave** Team to **adult survivors of institutional child sexual abuse**.

717 

clients engaged with Bravehearts' **National Redress Service**, Beyond Brave.

443 

counselling sessions delivered to children and young people in the Mackay, Whitsundays and Isaac regions, via Bravehearts' **The Courage Project**.

118,649 

number of children nationally who participated in Bravehearts' personal safety education program, **Ditto's Keep Safe Adventure**.

1,840 

number of Ditto's Keep Safe Adventure Shows delivered nationally to **young children** in primary schools and early learning centres, empowering them with **personal safety skills**.



12 submissions made to both State and Federal Government by Bravehearts' **Research Team**.



1,367,081

number of children nationally who have seen **Ditto's Keep Safe Adventure Show** since its inception in 2006.

6,371 

number of people nationally who have engaged in Bravehearts' **child protection training** (including both facilitated workshops and online courses).

1,450 

number of young people engaged in Bravehearts' consent and respectful relationships program, **ProjectYou!**

1,858 

counselling sessions delivered via Bravehearts' **Turning Corners Program** (Community and Youth Justice) to young people who have engaged in, or are at risk of engaging in, **harmful sexual behaviours**.

90 referrals managed by Bravehearts' **Child and Family Advocates**.



OUR THERAPEUTIC + SUPPORT SERVICES

Bravehearts' Information + Support Line

Bravehearts' Information and Support Line (1800 272 831) is a toll free, national support line that can be accessed by anyone wanting information or support relating to child sexual abuse.

The Support Line is open from 8:30am to 4:30pm Monday to Friday AEST (with varying hours on public holidays).

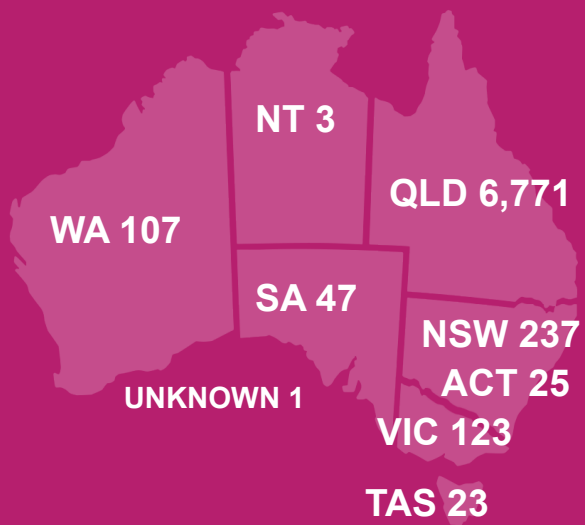
Our Information and Support Line Officers provide confidential support and advice regarding, but not limited to:

- Immediate crisis support following a recent disclosure.
- Support on how to make a report to state child protection or police (including advice regarding mandatory reporting).
- Advice on what to expect when accessing support.
- Advice on responding to disclosures of child sexual abuse, harmful sexual behaviours or sexual behaviour problems.
- Referrals and information to access appropriate support services.

For many who access Bravehearts' Support Line, it is the first time they have talked to anyone about their concerns or experiences. Our Support Line Officers offer compassion, calm professionalism and practical support for people in a diverse range of situations. From parents in crisis after learning their child has experienced sexual abuse, to adult survivors disclosing for the first time, to a member of the public concerned about a child at risk.

Bravehearts' Information and Support Line Officers received 7,337 enquiries (via phone, email, web and other channels), and made 55 Child Safety and Police Notifications.

Enquires made to Bravehearts' Information and Support Line by State/Territory (1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023)



Enquires made to Bravehearts' Information and Support Line by Type (1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023)

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---------|
| Child sexual abuse (general) | = 2,052 |
| General and/or multi-faceted | = 1,784 |
| National Redress Scheme | = 1,681 |
| Historical child sexual abuse | = 868 |
| Sexual behaviour problems | = 318 |
| Harmful sexual behaviours | = 284 |
| Reporting to Police or Child Safety | = 273 |
| Domestic and family violence | = 37 |
| Family Law Court | = 40 |

“Thank you so much for your kindness on the phone, and for forwarding the resources. I’m already feeling less alone and more hopeful for the year ahead.”

~ Feedback from someone who accessed Bravehearts' Information and Support Line

“Thank you for the work you are doing with (my child). She arrived at Bravehearts sullen, angry, and uncommunicative. She came home smiling and talkative.” ~ Feedback from a parent whose child received counselling with Bravehearts

SPECIALIST COUNSELLING FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE + FAMILIES

Bravehearts provides specialised, trauma-informed counselling to:

- Children and young people who have experienced or are at risk of experiencing child sexual abuse.
- Non-offending family members of children and young people including parents, partners, siblings and others.
- Children under 12 engaging in problem sexual behaviour (young people aged 13-17 with harmful sexual behaviours are referred to Bravehearts’ Turning Corners program).

Bravehearts’ counselling is delivered by psychologists, social workers and counsellors who specialise in assisting children, young people and families to work through the trauma of child sexual abuse, using evidence-based interventions and best practice.

These services, delivered face-to-face, over the phone and online, are currently available to children, young people and families across South East Queensland from three locations - Gold Coast, Logan and Strathpine (North Brisbane).

Number of Booked Counselling Sessions by Modality (1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023)

 Face-to-Face
4,509

 Tele-health (phone)
1,368

 eHealth (online)
176



**THERAPEUTIC
SUPPORT IN
ACTION**

A family engaged with Bravehearts’ counselling services was also going through the Victims Services application process. The initial outcome for their application denied the family access to receiving ongoing psychological care as it was determined the child did not experience psychological injury.

Bravehearts’ clinician fiercely advocated for the family’s application to be reviewed by providing a support letter outlining the impact and symptoms of trauma as a result of sexual abuse, explaining that trauma of this nature can be complex and have long term impacts. In response, Victims Services re-instated access for the family to receive therapeutic support, which is fundamental to a child’s healing. This was a well deserved outcome for this family.



CHILD + FAMILY ADVOCATES

Bravehearts' Child and Family Advocates liaise with Police to assist children, young people and their non-offending family member to make a police statement following a disclosure of child sexual abuse. This support is provided either at a police station or at Bravehearts' Head Office, which is set up to welcome and put children at ease when making their statements.

Our Advocates also provide case management support to therapeutic clinicians, participate in community engagement events and stakeholder meetings, provide education to external services, and support the delivery of parent education programs.

Bravehearts' Child and Family Advocates responded to 90 referrals internally and externally, and attended 77 community engagement meetings and events.

Notably, our Advocates contributed to an exclusive forum held by the Queensland Police Service (QPS), where Bravehearts was invited to participate in their Business Unit Review. They were able to share the impact that making a statement to Police has on our young clients, providing insights that enabled police to better understand the need to apply a therapeutic lens when working with children and families reporting and making statements about child sexual abuse.

"I am so grateful to Bravehearts for (the support) through the police reporting process. Police are great, but they speak a language I don't understand. To have been able to speak to you has been so very helpful, thank you so much."

~ Feedback from a parent whose family was supported by Bravehearts' Child and Family Advocates

THE COURAGE PROJECT

The Courage Project is a Bravehearts-led mental health service delivering to children and young people living in the Mackay, Whitsunday and Isaac Council Regions.

The service is available to disadvantaged and disengaged children under the age of 14 who have experienced, or are at risk of experiencing, child sexual abuse or physical violence. The multi-disciplinary team works with children and young people individually, as well as their non-offending family members and external support services.

The Courage Project team considers community outreach to be of great importance, regularly engaging in community events such as NAIDOC Week, Child Protection Week, and Pride Month activities.

In September, The Courage Project team facilitated their first joint community education session with Mackay Regional Community Legal Centre for Child Protection Week. The session was delivered to professionals throughout the Moranbah area as part of the quarterly inter-agency meeting. The collaboration was funded through Community Legal Education programs. Topics covered throughout this education session related to child sexual abuse and mandatory reporting changes that occurred in July 2021.

In November, the team facilitated a free Masterclass for practitioners to help support other services within the region and increase their skills and knowledge around working with children impacted by child sexual abuse.

The Courage Project is supported by funding from Northern Queensland Primary Health Network (NQPHN) through the Australian Government's PHN Program.



1,255
hours of counselling
were delivered by
The Courage Project
team in the 2022-
2023 financial year.



33%

of the 51 young people who accessed Turning Corners Community were aged 15, making up the largest cohort of clients.

17%

of the young people who accessed Turning Corners Community had a diagnosis of Autism.

11%

of the young people who accessed Turning Corners Community had an intellectual impairment.

TURNING CORNERS PROGRAM

Bravehearts' Turning Corners Program provides a comprehensive and integrated response to working with young people who have engaged in, or are at risk of engaging in, harmful sexual behaviour.

Turning Corners offers specialist counselling (often including family members and external support systems), as well as Child and Family Advocacy, across two program streams - Turning Corners Community and Turning Corners Restorative Justice.

The multi-disciplinary team of psychologists, social workers, counsellors, and case managers use evidence-based assessments and interventions, incorporating five essential components of treatment: Community safety; Addressing harm caused; Preventing further harm; Promoting wellbeing and; Education.

Turning Corners Community

Turning Corners Community works with young people aged between 12 and 18, and up to 21 for individuals with an intellectual impairment, who have engaged, or are at risk of engaging, in harmful sexual behaviour.

The program is supported by Hand Heart Pocket The Charity of Freemasons Queensland, which partners with charities and organisations in Queensland to ensure that the State's most at-risk young people have the outcomes they need to thrive in an adult life.

Turning Corners Restorative Justice

Turning Corners Restorative Justice supports young people aged between 10 and 17 at the time of engaging in harmful sexual behaviour and their families. Our specialist clinicians and advocates also support the children and young people who have been harmed by this behaviour, and their families or significant others.

The Turning Corners Restorative Justice team worked with young people from across Queensland including those living in Cunnamulla, Cloncurry, Mica Creek Normanton, Clermont and Moranbah, delivering a total of 1,011 counselling sessions as part of the program.

"I feel less constricted and secretive about my past, I now feel ok to discuss my past with other people in my broader circle... this is quite remarkable for me. I never thought I'd be able to talk to people about what I went through."

~ Feedback from a client engaged with Bravehearts' Beyond Brave Redress Support Service.

BEYOND BRAVE

Beyond Brave is Bravehearts' National Redress service, funded by the Department of Social Services to support adults who experienced sexual abuse as children in institutional contexts.

Bravehearts offers face-to-face support within South East Queensland from Bravehearts' head office (Gold Coast), as well as our Loganholme and Strathpine locations. Outreach services are available to those living in Townsville, Palm Island, Cairns and other areas in North Queensland, including those who are in a Queensland goal. Online and telephone support is available nationally.

Bravehearts was awarded a grant through the Truth, Healing and Reconciliation Grants Program for the Beyond Brave team to deliver a community event to promote healing for women who have experienced institutional child sexual abuse.

Held over two days in August, the Women's Wellbeing retreat was facilitated by two Bravehearts counsellors and attended by 10 women who had previously accessed Bravehearts' Beyond Brave service. The aim of the retreat was to give participants the opportunity to relax and switch off from their caring and community responsibilities, and to strengthen heart, mind, body and spirit through healing practices and some pampering.

49%

of Bravehearts' Beyond Brave clients identify as Aboriginal.

19%

of Bravehearts' Beyond Brave clients identify as having a disability.

35-39

is the main age group of clients accessing Bravehearts Redress support service.

157

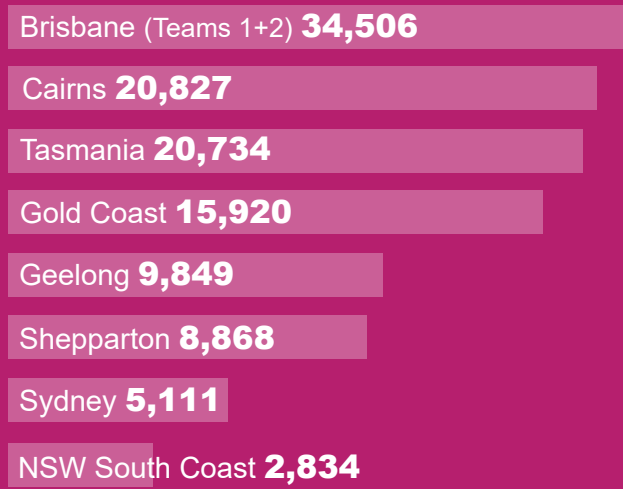
Beyond Brave clients received a Redress outcome.

12

outreach trips were made by the Beyond Brave team.



Number of children who saw Ditto's Keep Safe Adventure Show by Team (1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023)



52

Number of Ditto's Keep Safe Adventure shows that were delivered to outback and remote communities.

"My (4 year old) daughter came home from kindy today and recited that her mouth, body, vagina and bum belong to her and that if anyone touches them she'll say 'NO' and tell someone she trusts."

~ Feedback from a parent whose child had seen Ditto's Keep Safe Adventure Show that day.

OUR EDUCATION + TRAINING SERVICES



DITTO'S KEEP SAFE ADVENTURE PROGRAM

Bravehearts' Ditto's Keep Safe Adventure Program offers trusted and effective personal safety education for children in early years through to lower primary, fully aligned with the Early Years Learning Framework and the Australian Curriculum.

In early 2023, Bravehearts launched the updated and improved Ditto's Keep Safe Adventure Program, including brand new live shows with new songs, content, characters, and teaching resources.

Ditto's Keep Safe Adventure Show

Bravehearts' Ditto's Keep Safe Adventure Show is a live personal safety incursion for children aged three to eight, featuring Bravehearts' lion cub mascot 'Ditto'.

Established in 2006, the Ditto show teaches children essential personal safety skills and body ownership using age-appropriate language, song and dance.

Vital updates to the Ditto Show began in 2022, in consultation with child protection experts and education professionals, and based on specially commissioned external research and years of both quantitative and qualitative research into the Ditto program.

Delivery of the updated program in schools and early learning centres commenced early 2023, featuring fresh songs that cover personal safety issues relevant to digitally native, modern-day children, such as online safety. New characters (pictured below right) and updated language has increased inclusivity and representation, making the content more accessible and relatable to a wider range of children.

Ditto's Keep Safe Adventure Educator/Teacher Guides + Learning Resources

New teaching and learning resources were launched in early 2023 in line with the overarching program updates. These extensive resources enhance and extend the Ditto Show's educational concepts, are teacher/educator led and help reinforce vital personal safety learning within the classroom over eight lessons.

Available to purchase and access via Bravehearts' online learning platform, the Educator and Teacher Guides and accompanying learning resources now make Ditto's Keep Safe Adventure Program accessible to schools and early learning centres Australia-wide.



1,696

primary schools and early learning centres were visited by Ditto's Keep Safe Adventure Show this past financial year.



“I was recently required to complete an online course through Bravehearts as I am a volunteer for a community organisation, and I found the training to be excellent.”

~ Feedback from a volunteer at a child-facing organisation who completed Bravehearts' Introduction to Child Protection online course.

CHILD PROTECTION TRAINING

Bravehearts' child protection courses support and nurture child-safe environments within organisations that work with, and in the service of, children and young people.

Much of 2022-2023 was invested in updating Bravehearts' existing online child protection courses and developing new courses to meet the needs of the ever-growing child care and education sectors, and in response to improved child protection standards.

A variety of professionals from child-facing organisations and institutions accessed our online courses and facilitated workshops, including school teachers (primary and high school), early learning educators, sports coaches, administrative and operational staff, and outside-school-hours care staff.

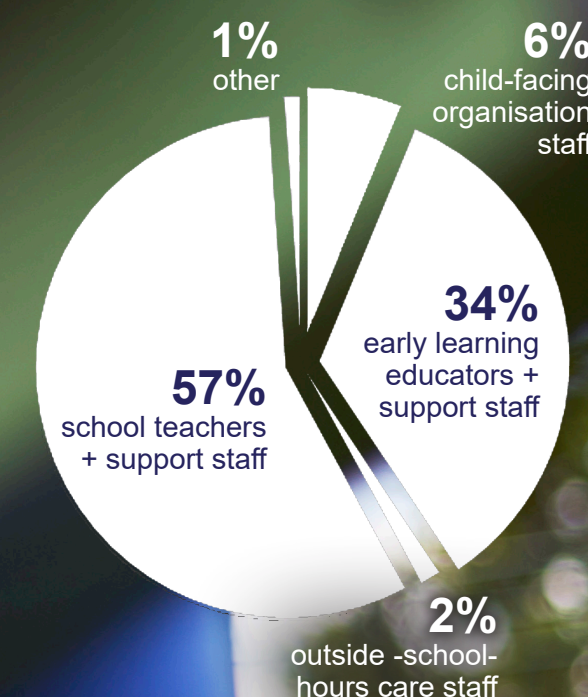
Training adults how to best to recognise, react and report child abuse and at risk children, is an essential component in realising Bravehearts' Vision of a world where people, communities and systems all work together to protect children from sexual abuse.



4,303

learners accessed Bravehearts' online child protection courses in the 2022-2023 financial year.

Learners who accessed Bravehearts' online child protection courses by profession (1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023)



PROJECTYOU!

Bravehearts' ProjectYou! explores the concepts of respectful relationships and personal safety for young people aged 12 to 18 years. Topics include asserting personal boundaries, resolving conflict, consent and the impacts of pornography.

ProjectYou! continues to evolve in line with the issues and challenges young people face in navigating the modern world. As the demand for access to this program increases, the need for updating the delivery format from facilitated workshops to interactive, online learning has become apparent. ProjectYou! is therefore currently under redevelopment, with the updated program due to be launched in the latter half of 2024.

RESEARCH

Bravehearts' Research team is focussed collating and disseminating current evidence-based research, as well as developing our own research to contribute to the knowledge and understanding of child sexual abuse. This is to ensure the work of Bravehearts is informed by an evidence-based understanding of preventing and responding to child sexual abuse (including exploitation) and that our role promoting system reform reflects the best interests of the child and aligns with national and international best practice.

To support Bravehearts' Mission, our research team works towards six Strategic Objectives:

1. To ensure best-practice and evidence-based approaches are applied to all Bravehearts programs.
2. Across community, sector, and government, informing, supporting and promoting a robust and evidence-based national approach to preventing and responding to child sexual abuse and exploitation.
3. To solidify Bravehearts' proactive involvement in research and reform, particularly as it relates to vulnerable people (including, First Nations, LGBTIQ+, CALD, and male survivors).
4. To ensure Bravehearts' proactive involvement in legislation and policy development with a focus on promoting the best interests of children and survivors.
5. To seek collaborative research partnerships.
6. To participate in government and sector working parties, committees, and panels.

Research Projects

The completion of three rapid-evidence assessment pieces commissioned by Bravehearts and undertaken by our research partners from the Institute of Child Protection Studies (Australian Catholic University).

- Rapid Evidence Review on parent engagement in child sexual abuse prevention education.
- Rapid Evidence Assessment (REA) on young people with disability, neurodiversity, neurodevelopmental differences or neuro-atypicality and child sexual abuse.
- Rapid Evidence Assessment on programs for harmful sexual behaviours between siblings.

Collectively, this work provides a summary of current literature to understand what the research supports as best-practice and provide an evidence-base to develop programs.

Survivor Perspectives on Institutional use of Child Sexual Abuse Material

Led by colleagues at the Ai for Law Enforcement and Community Safety (AiLECS) lab at Monash University, Bravehearts is part of a collaborative project exploring Survivor Perspectives on Institutional use of Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM). Funded by the National Centre for Action on Child Sexual Abuse, this research will be completed in late 2024.

The purpose of this research is to establish a lived-experience evidence base to assure that victim and survivor perspectives are more clearly acknowledged and addressed in the design and implementation of tools and processes that support institutional uses of CSAM (this may include use for investigation or prosecution of child sexual abuse cases, or as data in broader crime prevention research, including development of technology solutions to counter CSAM).

The research aims to draw on the lived expertise of survivors to develop and validate trauma-informed and survivor-centred policy/practice guidance for the use of CSAM in institutional contexts.

Victims/survivors' perspectives on sex offender reintegration: A mixed methods study

Building on earlier ANROWS Circles of Support and Accountability evaluation sub-research on victim/survivor views of reintegration/offender management programs, Bravehearts is working with colleagues from the Queensland University of Technology (Dr Jodi Death, Associate Professor Kelly Richards, Dr Michael Chataway, and Mr Chris Emzin), on a CRG funded project that will focus on the views of victims/survivors of sexual violence about sex offender reintegration. The data collection for this project is nearing completion, and we are aiming to publish from this research in 2024.

Turning Corners Evaluation

Bravehearts' research team is undertaking an evaluation of the Turning Corners program. The first stage will be a report to the funders for the Turning Corners Community program, Hand Heart Pocket, due in the second half of 2023. Following the completion of this report, a more extensive evaluation will be completed on both programs, Turning Corners Community and Turning Corners Restorative Justice.

Examining the impact of support animals in a therapeutic service for child sexual abuse

In conjunction with our research partners at La Trobe University (Dr Tiffany Howell) and Cairnmillar Institute (Dr David Butler) Bravehearts is conducting a research trial looking at the impact of support dogs on therapeutic interventions. The research will include both live support dogs and, in recognition of identified barriers (including cost, training, insurance, animal welfare), robotic dogs. In 2023, Bravehearts obtained ethical clearance through La Trobe University to undertake this research, and with data collection for the robotic dogs currently being undertaken, Bravehearts will begin the live support dog trial in late 2023.

Published Research (1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023)

The views of victim/survivors of sexual violence about perpetrator post-release measures - Richards, K., Death, J. and Ronken, C. (2023)

Observations from the field. In L. Sleep and P. Henman (eds.) ADM in Child and Family Services: Mapping what is happening and what we know - Ronken, C (2022)



EXECUTIVE RESEARCH ADVISORY PANEL

Bravehearts’ Executive Research Advisory Panel works towards advancing knowledge and research into matters relating to child sexual abuse and exploitation, including understanding this crime and how we can best respond and prevent sexual harm to children.

Executive Research Advisory Panel 2022-2023

- Assistant Professor Alissa Ackerman (College of Humanities and Social Sciences, California State University, Fullerton)
- Dr Jenine Beekhuyzen (Founder and CEO of Tech Girls Movement)
- Peter Bickford (Barrister)
- Dr Larissa Christensen (School of Law and Criminology, University of the Sunshine Coast)
- A/Prof Dominiek Coates (Director, Research, Evidence & Knowledge Generation, National Centre for Action on Child Sexual Abuse)
- Associate Professor Annie Cossins (Faculty of Law, University of New South Wales)
- Maree Crabbe (co-founder and Director of It’s Time We Talked)
- Sergeant Cameron Craig (Child Abuse and Sexual Crime Group, Queensland Police Service)
- Dr Melissa Curley (Political Science and International Studies, University of Queensland)
- Professor Kathleen Daly (School of Criminology and Criminal Justice, Griffith University)
- Dr Jodi Death (School of Justice, Queensland University of Technology)
- Lula Dembele (Accountability Matters Project)
- Nina Funnell (freelance journalist)
- Kylie Trengove (Office of the e-Safety Commissioner)
- Dr Terry Goldsworthy (Faculty of Society and Design, Bond University)
- Dr Danielle Harris (Griffith Youth Forensic Service, Griffith University)
- Professor Daryl Higgins (Institute of Child Protection Studies, Australian Catholic University)
- Craig Hughes-Cashmore (CEO, Survivors & Mates Support Network (SAMSN))
- Dr Mark Kavenagh (Head of Research and Policy, ECPAT International)
- Professor Mark Kebbell (School of Applied Psychology, Griffith University)
- Dr Jeremy Kerr (Creative Industries Faculty, Queensland University of Technology)
- Dr Rachel King (Team Leader, Lotus Support Services, Micah Projects)
- Greg Layton (Founder and Executive Coach, Chief Maker)
- Dr Ben Mathews (Faculty of Law, Queensland University of Technology)

- 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 Gemma McKibbin, Research Fellow, Department of Social Work, University of Melbourne
- Dr Nadine McKillop (University of the Sunshine Coast)
- Ashley Phelan (Child Abuse and Sexual Crime Group, Queensland Police Service)
- Associate Professor Jeremy Prichard (Faculty of Law, University of Tasmania)
- 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 (Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation)
- Tess Rowley (Corporate Speaker, Trainer & Writer)
- Sonya Ryan (Founder, Carly Ryan Foundation)
- Dr Michael Salter (School of Social Sciences, University of New South Wales)
- Damian Scattini (Partner at Quinn Emanuel Trial Lawyers)
- Associate Professor Cassandra Seery (Faculty of Business and Law, Deakin University)
- Lucy Thomas (Co-Founder/Co-CEO, Project Rockit)
- Rosie Thomas (Co-Founder/Co-CEO, Project Rockit)
- Matt Tyler, Executive Director, Men’s Project, Jesuit Social Services
- Sheryle Vilencia (Psychologist)
- Liz Walker (Managing Director, Youth Wellbeing Project)
- Dr Kerryann Walsh (Faculty of Education, Queensland University of Technology)
- Karyn Walsh AM (CEO, Micah Projects)

Bravehearts Youth Advisory Council

Bravehearts’ Youth Advisory Council (B-YAC) provides an avenue for the voices of children and young people to inform and provide youth perspectives on the work of Bravehearts and our sector partners.

Bravehearts Youth Advisory Council 2022-2023

- | | | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| • Alesandra Dumlao | • Claudia Branson | • Kailash Sarma | • Piper Hobden | • Taylor Birtchnell |
| • Amelia Ayris | • Cortney Claridge | • Karsten Duvel | • Piper Stock | • Tequeah (Tee) Iglesias |
| • Ameya Jaurigue | • Elliana Galvin | • Kate McEwen | • Pippa Milthorpe | • Tess (Tristen) Gilmour |
| • Angelina Inthavong | • Ember Rose | • Katie McCord | • Priya Virdee-Hero | • Zoe Keath |
| • Ashleigh Duffy | • Fatima Raza | • Kelsie Suter | • Rabia Rasul | |
| • Ashley Spence | • Hannah Pocock | • Khushal Shah | • Rebecca Gibson | |
| • Bella-May Barker | • Holly Hudson | • Meg Fitzgerald | • Sarah Theseira | |
| • Bita Mahani | • James Donnelly | • Nikoletta Apostolidis | • Shakiah Byrnes | |

SUBMISSIONS + LOBBYING

The following submissions were made to State and Federal Enquires in the 2022-2023 financial year:

- Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) and Other Legislation (QLD)
- Exposure draft legislation consultation - Family Law Amendment (Information Sharing) Bill 2022 (Commonwealth)
- Domestic and Family Violence Protection (Combating Coercive Control) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022 (QLD)

- Child Safety Research Agenda: Consultation Paper (Commonwealth)
- National Centre Learning and Development Survey (Commonwealth)
- Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) Act 2004 (QLD)
- National Centre for Action on Child Sexual Abuse Draft Five Year Strategy (Commonwealth)
- Access to offenders’ superannuation for victims and survivors of child sexual abuse (Commonwealth)
- Proposals to amend the Child Protection (Offender Registration) Act 2000 Consultation Paper (NSW)
- Exposure Draft - Family Law Amendment Bill 2023 (Commonwealth)
- The National Review of sexual assault and child sexual abuse laws (AIC)
- Crimes Amendment (Strengthening the Criminal Justice Response to Sexual Violence) Bill 2023 (Commonwealth)



OUR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT + FUNDRAISING

“777 runners gain such valuable life skills (from the experience) - determination, team bonding, empathy for others... such great learnings to take back to every day life. It’s very rewarding.

~ Peter Mahoney, 3 x 777 Marathon National Runner

\$3M



Total amount raised for Bravehearts by 777 Marathon runners since the event began in 2014.

Bravehearts’ 777 MARATHON 2023

Bravehearts’ 777 Marathon is an annual event where runners tackle seven marathons in seven consecutive days across seven states and territories, whilst raising funds for the prevention and treatment of child sexual abuse.

The 2023 event, proudly supported by Fisiocrem, travelled through Adelaide, Melbourne, Launceston, Sydney and Canberra, finishing on the Gold Coast, where runners joined up with the Gold Coast Marathon.

A total of 518 runners participated in this year’s 777 Marathon, including 18 National Runners (who ran all seven marathons across the seven days and locations) and 500 State Runners (who ran just one leg of the event in various States). Collectively, our runners raised \$409,335, with the majority of those funds raised by our National Runners.

Bravehearts 777 Marathon National Runners 2023

Branka Indic
Brenda Windsor
Brian Upton
Chris Glacken
Douglas Noonan
Jackson Bailey
Jess Peil
Jodie Irulegui-Teixeira
John Wilson
Julie Ward
Kaitlin Primrose
Kerrily Sartore
Louise Mackinlay
Lucy Saville
Mark Upton
Peter Mahoney
Ross Scott
Steven Rice

Bravehearts Day 2022

Bravehearts Day is dedicated to raising funds and awareness for the prevention of child sexual abuse.

Bravehearts Day continues the legacy of White Balloon Day, established in 1997. Though it now goes by a new name, the essence of the campaign remains the same - Bravehearts Day is and always will be about breaking the silence around child sexual abuse, supporting survivors of this crime, and preventing and treating this crime.

Bravehearts Day 2022 was held during National Child Protection Week, on Friday, 9 September, calling on Australians to ‘Show Your Heart for Child Protection’.

The campaign was promoted nationally via social media (both paid and organic), out-of-home advertising (billboards and bus ads), and through earned media in metro, local and online publications.

A total of 1,299 registrations were achieved, which included individuals, schools, early learning centres, government organisations, business, community groups and councils.

Bravehearts Day 2022 was funded by Department of Social Services, National Initiatives and supported by our Matched Giving Partners, Superannuation Advice Australia and Busy Bees Early Learning.



\$245,830

Total amount fundraised for Bravehearts Day 2022.





THE ANNUAL BRAVEHEARTS BALL

The 2023 Annual Bravehearts Ball was held on Saturday 27th of May, at Brisbane City Hall.

426 guests attended the Great Gatsby themed evening, MC'd by Charli Robinson and featured key-note speaker Sarah Pocock, Bravehearts Ambassador and child sexual abuse survivor and advocate.

Over \$100,000 was raised on the night thanks to the generosity of the guests in the room and our event sponsors, Gallagher Security, Busy Bees Early Learning, Superannuation Advice Australia, ARN, Gala Bid, Fisiocrem, Brisbane City Council, UTM Global, Azztech Cabinets, Ord 2Pac Finishes and YCSS. The 2023 Annual Bravehearts Ball was in support of Bravehearts Day and was funded by the Department of Social Services, National Initiatives.



FACEBOOK FITNESS CHALLENGES

Harnessing the power of Facebook Groups, fitness challenges have been a popular fundraising stream for charities world-wide since the pandemic, as they encourage a sense of community that comes with charity fundraising, but on a virtual platform.

Bravehearts coordinated two of these challenges in 2022 and 2023 - 100 Sit Ups a Day in May (2022) and 5km a Day Your Way in March (2023), which collectively raised \$195,820.

ANNUAL CHARITY GOLF DAY 2022

The 2022 Bravehearts Charity Golf Day was held on Friday, October 14, 2022 at Emerald Lakes Golf Club, Gold Coast. A total of \$32,090 was raised on the day, thanks to our kind 113 attendees and our generous sponsors.

Thank you to our event sponsors, Kollosche, Gallagher Security, ADG Engineering, Alroe Constructions, Australia Framing Solutions, Bartercard, Busy Bees, Commonwealth Bank, CorpSure, Fisiocrem, National Custom Compounding, Panezski Artisan Distillery, and The Osher Group.



THIRD-PARTY FUNDRAISING

Third-party fundraising activities are carried out throughout the year by individuals, businesses and organisations committed to protecting Australian children by raising funds for Bravehearts.

Our most dedicated and passionate third-party fundraiser is Claude Harvey OAM (aka 'The Mowerman'), who continued to spread the message of child safety and raise funds for Bravehearts this past year. In addition, he was awarded Queensland Senior Australian of the Year 2023 (pictured right).

78 year-old Claude raised a total of \$118,733 for Bravehearts in the 2022-2023 financial year, bringing his cumulative fundraising total to \$1,629,877!



Bravehearts' Top 10 Third-Party Fundraisers 2022-2023

- **\$118,733** - Claude Harvey OAM
- **\$60,000** - Mazzei Foundation
- **\$31,846** - Friends of Bravehearts
- **\$29,225** - Port Macquarie Fundraising Committee
- **\$14,951** - Michelle Milthorpe
- **\$7,362** - Rob Molhoek MP



- **\$6,741** - Frenzal Rhomb Touring Co P/L and Artist First
- **\$6,433** - Phillip Maddx
- **\$4,441** - Kellie Windle
- **\$4,357** - James de Dassel

OUR PEOPLE + CULTURE

BRAVEHEARTS STAFF CONFERENCE

Bravehearts’ staff conference was held in February 2023 in Northern NSW, and was the first time since all teams had come together since the pandemic.

Typically held annually at the start of the calendar year, Bravehearts’ staff conference enables employees from around the country to gather, connect, and refocus on the organisation’s Mission for the year ahead.

The theme of this year’s conference was ‘Connection: Better Together’. Local Elder, Rick Rosser, opened the conference with a Welcome to Country and interactive Smoke Ceremony (pictured below).

Activities and speakers over the three day event allowed staff to connect with Bravehearts’ updated Vision, Mission and Values, and learn about our strategic and operational plans to build a greater understanding of our work, ourselves and our peers.

The staff conference is an important part of Bravehearts’ organisational culture, helping to build positive connections between our staff and the work they do in protecting Australian children from the crime of child sexual abuse.

DIVERSITY + INCLUSIVITY INITIATIVES

Bravehearts prioritises the health and wellbeing of our people, fostering a culture of inclusivity that embraces our values of integrity, respect, energy, empathy and bravery.

Bravehearts introduced a Rainbow Allies group to support our LGBTQIA+ staff and clients. The group introduced some small but important initiatives, such as including pronouns on staff name badges, office signage and email signatures, helping to support a culture of inclusiveness.

Bravehearts’ Reconciliation journey continues, with our Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) currently in reflection phase. Our RAP Committee introduced a quarterly internal newsletter ‘Kanyini’, which aims to give staff contextual information on First Nations culture and history.

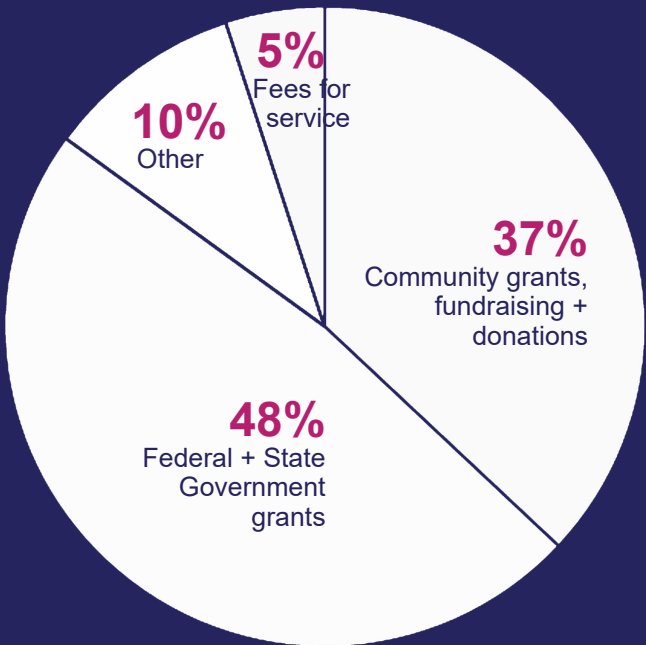
Bravehearts’ RAP Committee also coordinated a number of activities throughout the year, including an afternoon tea at our Gold Coast Head Office to mark Reconciliation Week.

Community stakeholders attended the event, including staff from a nearby domestic violence service, and local Elder, Uncle John Graham (Kombumerri Nation), who provided a Welcome to Country and spoke to the group on the Voice to Parliament, as well as matters relating to connection and wellbeing. Uncle John also brought with him a collection of historical photographs and artifacts that helped the group learn more about the area’s rich Aboriginal history.



OUR FINANCIALS

Sources of Revenue 2022-2023 Financial Year



REVENUE

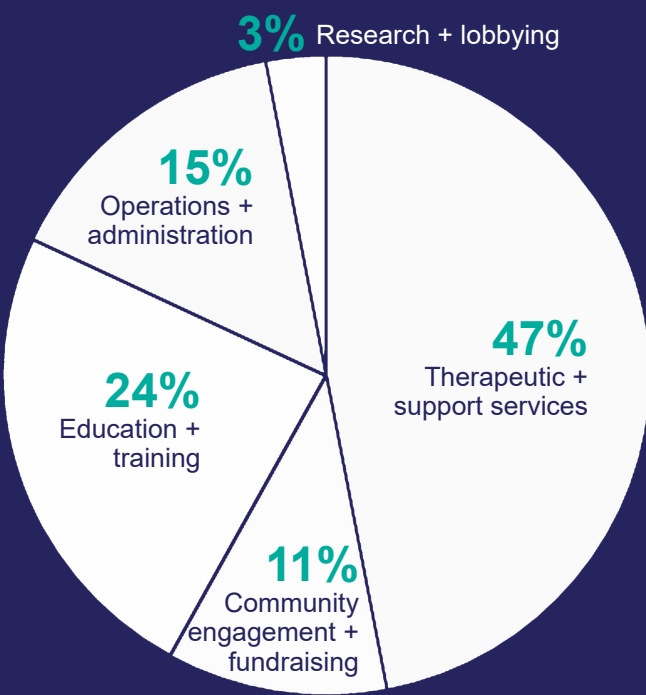
Bravehearts’ total revenue for the 2022-2023 was \$9,333,441.

Our primary source of revenue came from Federal and State Government grants, funding which is tied to specific programs and projects.

Second to this was revenue from community grants, fundraising and donations, demonstrating how important local communities are to the continued delivery of our vital services.

For our detailed financial report for 2022-2023, please go to bravehearts.org.au/about-us/annual-report.

Expenditure in the 2022-2023 Financial Year



EXPENDITURE

Bravehearts’ total expenditure for the 2022-2023 was \$9,160,275.

Close to 50% of our funds were invested into our therapeutic and support services in the past financial year, reflecting the almost 50% of revenue that came from Government grants tied to the delivery of specific therapeutic services.

Second to this was expenses related to education and training, particularly our investment in updating Ditto’s Keep Safe Adventure program and related resources.

For our detailed financial report for 2022-2023, please go to bravehearts.org.au/about-us/annual-report.

GRANTS AWARDED

Arrow Energy - Brighter Futures

- Ditto's Keep Safe Adventure – Personal Safety Resources

Australia Post - People of Post

- Parent/Carer Information Packs

Australian Medical Association NSW

- NSW South Coast Ditto Education Program

Brisbane City Council

- Funding for Bravehearts Ball

City of Launceston

- Ditto's Keep Safe Adventure – Personal Safety Resources

City of Moreton Bay

- Facility Upgrades
- Parent/Carer Information Packs

Coolaroo Foundation

- NSW South Coast Ditto Education Program

Department for Education, Children and Young People – Tasmania

- Tasmania Ditto Education Program

Department of Child Safety, Seniors and Disability Services (Formerly known as: Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs)

- Southeast Qld Therapeutic Services
- Strathpine Therapeutic Services

Department of Regional NSW - Children & Young People Wellbeing

- NSW South Coast Ditto Education Program

Department of Social Services

- Bravehearts Day – National Campaign
- Far North Queensland Ditto Education Program
- Beyond Brave Redress Service

Department of Youth Justice, Employment, Small Business and Training (Formerly known as: Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs)

- Turning Corners – Restorative Justice Program for young people with harmful sexual behaviours

Diggers Services Club

- Bravehearts 5 Storybook Series for clients on Logan waiting list

Enkelmann Foundation

- Untied Funds

Geelong Community Foundation

- Geelong Ditto Education Program

Google Australia

- International Conferences

Goulburn Valley Centre Against Sexual Assault

- Shepparton Ditto Education Program

Hand Heart Pocket The Charity of Freemasons Queensland

- Turning Corners Community program, for young people with harmful sexual behaviours

Hope & Tony Saba Foundation

- Untied Funds

L & R Uechtritz Foundation

- Untied Funds

Lendlease Foundation & Bendigo Bank Community Enterprise Foundation

- Parent/Carer Information Packs

Northern Queensland Primary Healthcare Network

- Courage Project – Mackay therapeutic service

Percy Baxter Charitable Trust

- Geelong Ditto Education Program

Rose Anne Amarant Charitable Trust

- Untied Funds

Shoalhaven City Council

- NSW South Coast Ditto Education Program

Thyne Reid Foundation

- Digitalisation of Ditto Program
- Multi-disciplinary Wraparound Service

OUR ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS + THANKS

OUR BOARD + PATRONS



Chair

Vanessa Garrard
Entrepreneur, Chair, Non-Exec
Director, Mentor



Deputy Chair

Andrew Hay
Partner, Clayton Utz



Treasurer

Gemma Cook
Chief Financial Officer, MCC Group



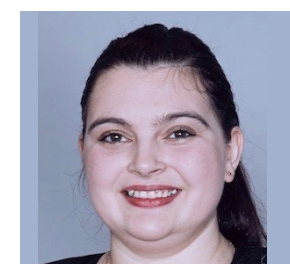
Director

Dr Kelly Richards
Associate Professor of
Criminology, Queensland
University of Technology



Director

Rob Molhoek
State Member for Southport



Director

Cassandra Seery
Melbourne Law School,
University of Melbourne



Patron in Chief
**Her Excellency the
Honourable Dr
Jeannette Young
AC PSM**
Governor of
Queensland



National Vice Patron

Karl Morris AO
CEO & Managing
Director, Ord Minnett
Ltd



Company Secretary
John Lane-Mullins



Company Secretary
Sharon Palmer
Chief Financial Officer,
Bravehearts



Company Secretary
Jane Albert
Senior Lawyer,
Aspen Legal

OUR AMBASSADORS

Brand Ambassadors

- Duncan Armstrong - Olympic Gold Medal Swimmer
- Robin Bailey - Radio Host
- Tony Bonner AM - Actor
- Simone Buchanan - Actor
- Paul Constable Calcott - Indigenous Artist
- Kristina Costalos - Channel 10 Journalist
- Amy Cure - Olympic Cyclist
- Stacey Currie - Motivational Speaker
- Damian DeMarco - Lobbyist
- Lula Dembele - Survivor Advocate
- Julie Gilbert - Dietitian
- Lisa Gormley - Actor
- Katrina Harper-Greenwell - Commissioner at Fair Work Commission
- Kelly Humphries - Survivor Advocate/Author
- Tait MacKrill - AFLW GWS player
- Jimmy Maher - Ex-Cricketer
- Angus McLaren - Actor
- Heidi Middleton - Co-creator Sass & Bide
- Larissa Miller - Olympic Gymnast
- Darcia Ondrovčík - Author/Fitness Guru
- Margaux Parker - Radio Host/Celebrity
- Sarah Pocock- Victim/Survivor
- Rob Redenbach - Author/Speaker
- Carla Rodan - Celebrity
- Isabella Rositano - Fighter/Musician
- Detective Inspector Jon Rouse APM - Detective Acting Superintendent Operations Manager, Victim Identification and Training, Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation Australia
- Peta Searle - AFLW Coach
- Hannah Southwell - Women’s NRL, Roosters
- Nichola Turner - Womens 30’s Surfing Champion

Youth Ambassadors

- Amelia Ayris - Actor/Singer
- Edwina Royce - Actor

Community + Corporate Ambassadors

- Cheryl Gaidja - Advocate
- Kristy Meizer - Director/Owner, Lovell Meizer Funerals
- Jess Peil - Fitness professional
- Kristy Pereira - General Manager, Mini Masterminds
- Meg Poulter - Managing Director, DPG Legal



Ambassador in Chief
Bob Atkinson AO APM

OUR CORPORATE PARTNERS + SPONSORS

Bravehearts Day

- Busy Bees Early Learning (Matched Giving Partner)
- Superannuation Advice Australia (Matched Giving Partner)
- ARN

Bravehearts Ball

- Gallagher Security
- UTM Global
- Azztech Cabinets & Ord. 2Pac Finishes
- YCSS
- Brisbane City Council

777 Marathon

- Fisiocrem

Bravehearts Annual Charity Golf Day

- Kollosche
- Gallagher Security
- ADG Engineering
- Alroe Constructions
- Australia Framing Solutions
- Bartercard
- Busy Bees
- Commonwealth Bank
- CorpSure
- Fisiocrem
- National Custom Compounding
- Panezski Artisan Distillery
- The Osher Group

OUR GOVERNMENT PARTNERS

- Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation
- Australian Federal Police
- Brisbane City Council
- City of Gold Coast
- City of Launceston
- City of Moreton Bay
- eSafety Commission
- Queensland Child & Family Commission
- Queensland Police Service - Child Abuse and Sexual Crime Group
- Queensland Police Service - Child Protection and Investigation Units
- Queensland Police Service - Taskforce Argos
- Department for Education, Children and Young People - Tasmania
- Department of Child Safety, Seniors and Disability Services - Queensland
- Department of Regional NSW
- Department of Social Services
- Department of Youth Justice, Employment, Small Business and Training - Queensland
- Northern Queensland Primary Healthcare Network
- Shoalhaven City Council

'THANKSHOE' AWARDS 2022-2023

Platinum Award

- AFL Cape York
- City of Moreton Bay
- Claude 'The Mowerman' Harvey OAM
- Clayton Utz
- Department for Education, Children and Young People - Tasmania
- Department of Child Safety, Seniors and Disability Services - Queensland
- Department of Social Services
- Department of Youth Justice, Employment, Small Business and Training - Queensland
- Esther Dyer
- Goulburn Valley Centre Against Sexual Assault
- Hand Heart Pocket The Charity of Freemasons Queensland
- Jess Peil
- Karl Morris
- Kevin Stubbs
- Mazzei Foundation
- Noble Street Uniting Church
- Northern Queensland Primary Health Network
- Ord Minnett Limited - Brisbane
- Thyne Reid Foundation
- Toll Group
- von Bibra Auto Group

Gold Award

- ARN
- Busy Bees Early Learning
- Brian and Mark Upton
- Coolaroo Foundation
- JC Decaux
- Superannuation Advice Australia
- The Magazine Publishing Company

Silver Award

- 102.9 Hot Tomato
- Department of Regional NSW
- Dorothy Staunton
- Flexipanel - Syd Scanlon
- General Outdoor Advert
- John Wilson
- Lisa Warwick
- Reuben Bergola
- Rick Warwick
- Ross Scott
- Sabio
- Sandie Parkes
- The Advertising Works

Bronze Award

- Ainsworth4Foundation
- Australian Medical Association NSW
- Branka Indic
- Brenda Windsor
- Brisbane City Council
- Connect National Audit
- Desiree Bird
- Douglas Noonan
- Enkelmann Foundation
- Fiona Veld-Brown
- Gallagher Security
- Geelong Community Foundation
- Google Australia
- Gridare
- Hope & Tony Saba Foundation
- Jackson Bailey
- Jane Spry
- Jodie Irulegui-Teixeira
- Julie Ward
- K&J Prendiville Foundation
- Kaitlin Primrose
- Kangaroo Creek Vineyard
- Kirrily Sartore
- L & R Uechtritz Foundation
- Lendlease Foundation & Bendigo Bank Community Enterprise Foundation
- Louise Mackinlay
- Lucy Saville
- Micheal Reynolds
- Nigel Spry
- Percy Baxter Charitable Trust
- Peter Mahoney
- Peter Smith
- Pudding Lane
- PW Foundation PTY LTD
- Regional Express Airlines
- Rob Molhoek
- Rose Anne Amarant Charitable Trust
- Rosebank Child Sexual Abuse Service Inc.
- Ruth Fagg Foundation
- Shoalhaven City Council
- SJ Hill Foundation
- Steven & Corinna Essa
- Steven Rice
- Thursday Island Child Protection & Investigations Unit, Far North Region, Queensland Police Service
- Uniting Care - Family and Disability Services
- UV Power Pty Ltd
- Win Television

Bravehearts' Service Awards

- 20 Years of Service - Carol Ronken
- 15 Years of Service - Tania Brierley





Bravehearts

bravehearts.org.au

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