ABOUT BRAVEHEARTS



Founded in 1997, Bravehearts is an Australian child protection organisation dedicated to preventing and treating child sexual abuse.

OUR MISSION

To provide a coordinated and holistic approach to the prevention and treatment of child sexual abuse.

OUR VISION

A world where people, communities and systems all work together to protect children from sexual abuse.

WHAT WE DO

- **Personal Safety Education:** Preventing child sexual abuse by educating children about personal safety through Ditto's Keep Safe Adventure program.
- **Counselling & Support:** Treating child sexual abuse through specialist counselling for children and families affected by child sexual abuse, a national Information and Support Line (1800 272 831), case management for adult survivors seeking Redress, and therapeutic intervention for young people with harmful sexual behaviours.
- **Child Protection Training:** Preventing child sexual abuse by training adults working with children on child safety best practice.
- **Research & Reform:** Preventing and treating child sexual abuse through evidence-based research and legislative reform that works in the best interest of children and survivors of child sexual abuse.

WHY WE DO IT

- Child sexual abuse knows no physical, financial, socioeconomic, geographic, cultural or gender boundaries, is a **profound violation of the human rights** of the child and is a crime under law.
- Children who have been sexually abused can suffer a range of short and long-term **psychological and physiological effects**, however those who are believed and supported when they first disclose are less likely to endure long term negative impacts.
- More than **1 in 4 Australians (28.5%)** have experienced child sexual abuse.[1]
- In **up to 90%** of child sexual abuse cases, the offender is known to the family[2].
- In **more than half of cases** (approximately 52%), the onset of child sexual abuse is from **0 to 8 years**[3].

Bravehearts

bravehearts.org.au

ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE
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1) Haslam D, Mathews B, Pacella R, Scott JG, Finkelhor D, Higgins DJ, Meinck F, Erskine HE, Thomas HJ, Lawrence D, Malacova E. (2023). The prevalence and impact of child maltreatment in Australia: Findings from the Australian Child Maltreatment Study: Brief Report. Australian Child Maltreatment Study, Queensland University of Technology. 2) Australian Bureau of Statistics 2017; Quadara, Nagy, Higgins & Siegel, 2015. 3) McElvaney et al,. 2020.