

ABOUT BRAVEHEARTS

Bravehearts is an Australian child protection organisation with a Mission 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

- **Personal Safety Education:** Bravehearts works to prevent child sexual abuse by educating children and young people about personal safety, including body ownership, eSafety 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 young people (and their non-offending family members) affected by this crime; a national freecall Information and Support Line (1800 272 831); case management for adult survivors seeking Redress; and therapeutic intervention for young people with harmful sexual behaviours.
- **Online Child Protection Courses:** Bravehearts works to prevent child sexual abuse by training individuals and 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

- More than **1 in 4 Australians (28.5%)** have experienced child sexual abuse.¹ It's a crime that affects all races, economic classes, cultural groups and genders. Children of all ages are abused, even toddlers and babies².
- More than **1 in 3 girls** and almost **1 in 5 boys** experience child sexual abuse.³
- Among Australian children who have been sexually abused, for **more than three-quarters (78%)**, it happened more than once⁴.
- In **up to 90%** of child sexual abuse cases, the offender is known to the family⁵.
- In **more than half of cases** (approximately 52%), the onset of child sexual abuse is from **0 to 8 years**⁶.
- **1 in 8 children** has sent a photo or video of themselves to someone they first met online⁷.
- Approximately **1 in 3 cases** of child sexual abuse are instigated by other young people⁸.

1,3,4) 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) James, 2000; Centre for Disease Control & Prevention, 2006; Collin-Vézina, Daigneault, & Hébert, 2013; Dube et al., 2005. 5) Australian Bureau of Statistics 2017; Quadara, Nagy, Higgins & Siegel, 2015. 6) McElvaney et al., 2020. 7) Office of the eSafety Commissioner, 2022. 8) Der Bedrosian, 2018; McKibbin, 2017; Finkelhor, Omrod & Chaffin, 2009.