

Background Information Sheet 6 Bravehearts' Achievements

1997

Bravehearts launches the annual **White Balloon Day**.

Participates in Children's Commission Inquiry into "**Paedophilia in Queensland**".

1998-2000

Bravehearts' Founder Hetty Johnston serves as Chair of Queensland **Child Protection Week Committee**.

1999-2000

Bravehearts' Founder Hetty Johnston appointed as Queensland Director of **Advocates for Survivors of Child Abuse**.

Bravehearts launches White Balloon Day in Canberra—Queensland Police report **514% increase in disclosures as a result**.

2000

Bravehearts opens its **therapeutic service** in Springwood, Queensland.

Bravehearts' Founder Hetty Johnston joins the board of the **National Association for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect**.

Bravehearts advocates for survivors' rights to speak publicly, resulting in inclusion of **Section 189 in Queensland's Child Protection Act 1999**.

Participates in the Queensland Crime Commission and Queensland Police Service research report on paedophilia: "**Project Axis**"

Bravehearts pushes for **Working with Children Legislation** in Queensland.

2001

Bravehearts produces "**Loud and Clear**" with support from the Queensland Police Service and Law Society.

Bravehearts' launches the **Sexual Assault BRAVE HEARTS Disclosure Scheme** in



"Protecting children against sexual assault"

Queensland.

2002

Successfully lobbies for **children's right to civil compensation** in Queensland



Instigator of the "**Report of the Ombudsman: An investigation into the adequacy of the actions of certain government agencies in relation to the safety of Brooke Brennan, aged three**" (Queensland Ombudsman, May 2002).

2003

Bravehearts' calls for the resignation of **former Governor-General Peter Hollingworth** leading to legislative change in regard to the inclusion of clergy in mandatory reporting and working with children legislation.

Successfully lobbies for **indefinite sentencing** for sexual offenders in Queensland resulting in the *Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act 2003*.

Instigator of the "**Seeking Justice: An inquiry into the handling of sexual offences by the criminal justice system**" report by the Queensland Crime and Misconduct Commission.

Launches the *Ditto's Keep Safe Adventure* child protection CD-Rom.

Participates in the "**Review of Part 6 of the Commission for Children and Young People Act 2000**" in Queensland.

2004

Successfully lobbies for the introduction of **Amber Alerts** in Queensland.

Instigates the "**Protecting Children: An inquiry into abuse of children in foster care**" (Crime and Misconduct Commission, 2004) after the systemic abuse of children in care was brought to

Bravehearts' Achievements Continued... ..

our attention. This results in a complete restructure of the Queensland child protection system and a major increase in funding.

Officially **opens branch in Margaret River**, Western Australia.

Participates in the formulation of the Queensland government's **Blueprint** for implementing the recommendations of the "Protecting Children" Inquiry.

2005

Participates in the **Queensland Police Service Working Party for Sexual Offences Training**.

Provides a submission to the **Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative** seeking information on the impact of community groups in the criminal justice sector.

Submission to the Queensland **Department of Corrective Services Legislative Review Team**.

Continues push for a **Federal Royal Commission into the Sexual Assault of Children**.

Completes report to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child with Catholics for a Free Choice (US) and Broken Rites (Victoria), "**The Holy See and the Convention on the Rights of the Child in Australia**".

Submission to the Queensland Crime and Misconduct Commission's **review of the recommendations made in the 2003 "Seeking Justice" report**.

Provides feedback on the Queensland **Anglican draft Protocol for Dealing with Complaints of Abuse**.

Bravehearts position paper on the "Management and Treatment of Child Sex Offenders" is included in full in the Australian Capital Territory Government report "**Sentence and Release Options for High-Risk Sexual Offenders**".

Meets with the Queensland **Department**

Your group has taken the lead in bringing that battle into the public arena and has had astonishing success in helping guide and counsel victims and their families... White Balloon Day is an important date increasing awareness of child protection and safety issues throughout Queensland

The Hon Anna Bligh, Qld Premier

of Child Safety Implementation Unit to provide feedback on child protection procedures.

Provides feedback to the **Queensland Council of Social Services on their draft submission** to the government on the lack of funding for prevention and early intervention of child abuse.

Bravehearts receives an **Australian Crime and Violence Prevention Award** from the Australian Institute of Criminology.

Bravehearts' Founder Hetty Johnston is appointed Chair of the Queensland **Endeavour Foundation's "Abuse Prevention & Response Advisory Committee"**.

Launches the **Ditto Keep Safe Adventure! School-based personal safety program**.

Western Australia introduces **indefinite sentencing legislation**.

Bravehearts' Founder Hetty Johnston is named one of four Queensland finalists in the 2006 **Australian of the Year Awards**.

2006

Bravehearts presents a paper at **Australasian Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect** in Wellington, New Zealand.

New South Wales introduces **indefinite sentencing legislation**.

Releases position paper on "**Age of Consent Laws in Australia**".

Launches the **Child Protection: It's everybody's business** workshops for parents and people working with children in South East Queensland.

Bravehearts' Founder Hetty Johnston is nominated in the **2006 Queensland Greats Awards** and the **2006 Suncorp Queenslander of the Year Awards**.

Bravehearts presents papers at the **Protect**

Bravehearts' Achievements Continued... ..

All Children Today Conference in Brisbane, Queensland during Child Protection Week.

Releases position paper on "**Community Notification of Sex Offenders**".

Bravehearts participates in a **Family Support Forum** held in Redland Bay, Queensland.

Bravehearts' Founder Hetty Johnston is appointed as an Ambassador for the **2007 Australian of the Year Awards**.

2007

Officially **opens office in Sydney**, New South Wales.

Provides a submission to the Federal Attorney General on **Australia's Common Core Document for Human Rights Reporting**.

Bravehearts is invited to sit on the **Federal Government's Working Party on Cyber-Safety**.

Launches the **Respect MySpace** partnership project with MySpace, promoting awareness and Internet Safety for young people.

Submits a response to the **Children in State Care Commission of Inquiry, South Australia**.

Presents a paper at the **National Protective Behaviours Conference** in Hobart, Tasmania.

Bravehearts attends the **Australasian Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect** on the Gold Coast, Queensland.

Releases the position paper "**The Use of Polygraph Testing in Monitoring Child Sex Offenders**"

Presents a workshop at the **Allied Health Professionals conference** in Toowoomba, Queensland.

Submission to the Queensland Department of

Child Safety's "**Positive Behaviour Support Project**".

Submission to the "**UNICEF Child Protection Strategy**".

2008

Presents at the **National Judicial College's "Sentencing 2008 Conference"** in Canberra, Australian Capital Territory.

Releases the position paper "**Balancing Rights: Arguments for the indefinite detention of dangerous sex offenders**"

Submission to the "**Wood Inquiry into Child Protection Services in New South Wales**".

Submission to the **New South Wales Attorney General** regarding the inclusion of child sex assault cases in the criminal conferencing trial.

Submission to the "**Federal Senate Inquiry into the Sexualisation of Children in the Media**".

Submission to the New South Wales Sentencing Council Inquiry, "**Sexual Assault Offences—a review of penalties**".

Submission to the New South Wales Sentencing Council Inquiry, "**Reductions in Penalties at Sentence**".

Releases the position paper "**Two Strikes and They're Out: Mandatory sentencing and child sex offenders**"

Submission to the Service Delivery and Performance Commission's **Review of the Queensland Police Service**.

Releases the briefing paper "**Legislating Standard Minimum Non-parole Periods for Child Sex Offenders**"

Submission to the Federal Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs "**Australia's children: well and safe. A national framework for protecting Australia's children**".

Submission to the Federal Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs "**Australia's children: well and safe. A national framework for**



Bravehearts' Achievements Continued... ..

protecting Australia's children".

Submission to Queensland Department of Child Safety's "**Policy Paper Proposing Amendments to the *Child Protection Act 1999***".

Submission to the **Federal Senate Inquiry into Mental Health**.

Bravehearts' Founder Hetty Johnston is named as a finalist in the **2008 Suncorp Queenslander of the Year Awards**.

Participates in the **Coalition of Organisations Committed to the Safety and Wellbeing of Australia's Children** working party in Melbourne, Victoria.

Submission to the **National Council's Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and Children**.

Invited to join the **Governmental Interdepartmental Working Group—Stakeholder Reference Group** on changes to criminal compensation legislation in Queensland.

Submission to the Victims of crime Review (Queensland), "**Discussion Paper: Victim Impact Statements**".

Conducts review of "**Building Generations: A strengths-based, solution-focussed parenting program for female adult survivors of family sexual violence**" for the National Child Protection Clearinghouse's Child Abuse Prevention Newsletter.

Participates in the **Federal Criminal Law and Procedure Roundtable** in Brisbane, Queensland.

Participates in the **Federal Criminal Justice Forum** in Canberra, Australian Capital Territory.

Submission to the New South Wales Independent Commission Against Corruption "**Inquiry into the Protection of Public Sector Whistleblower Employees**".

Submission to the Queensland Department of Corrective Services "**Discussion Paper: A new public**

protection model for the management of high risk sexual and violent offenders".

Invited to submit article to the **Family World News**: "Protecting Our Children: Child sexual assault".

Invited participant in the **Protective Behaviours Focus Group** for the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Branch of the Queensland Police Service.

Submission to the Australian Arts Council on the "**Draft Children in Art Protocols**".

Research paper released: "**An evaluation into Bravehearts' Sexual Assault Disclosure Scheme**".



2009

Submission to the **New South Wales Attorney General** on the proposed Bill on spent sentences.

Presented workshop to the program staff for the **Sex Offender Programs Unit** at Wolston Correctional Centre, Queensland.

Bravehearts' Founder, Hetty Johnston named as the recipient of the **International Toastmasters Award for Communication and Leadership**.

Bravehearts participation in the development of the **National Child Protection Framework**, endorsed by COAG on 30th April, ensured that that child sexual assault is understood and dealt with separately to other forms of child abuse and neglect.

Bravehearts was provided with a funding grant through the Federal Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs to **provide free professional development training** to 250 psychologists, counsellors and other mental health practitioners across the country.

Provided submission to the **Victorian Sentencing Advisory Council's review of maximum penalties** for *sexual penetration with a child under 16* offences.

Bravehearts' Achievements Continued... ..

Participated in the **review of Queensland Department of Child Safety's Sexual Abuse Counselling Services.**

Submission to the Queensland Attorney-General in response to the discussion paper "**Victims who kill their abusers: A discussion paper on defences**".

Submission to the **National Human Rights Consultation.**

Provided feedback to the Queensland Department of Justice & Attorney-General on the draft ***Victims of Crime Assistance Bill 2009.***

Submission to the Queensland Department of Justice & Attorney-General on the draft ***Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offences) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2009.***

I see you and your organisation in the news and often say under my breath, why weren't you and your organisation around when I was being abused... I applaud Bravehearts and say to you please never, ever give up your fight for something that you so strongly believe in.

Convicted paedophile-Anon