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# Our Research & Lobbying Program

Bravehearts has an active involvement in research and policy and legislation development that aims to prevent, respond to, and ultimately reduce the incidence of child sexual assault in our communities, through concerted campaigns at the local, state and national levels.

Bravehearts' believes that to make a difference in child protection, there needs to be an holistic approach.

We take the position that in order to effectively work towards preventing child sexual assault, issues concerning both the survivor and the offender need to be considered.



**Some of our achievements since we began include:**

**1997:** Bravehearts launched the annual White Balloon Day in Queensland.

**2000:** Successfully lobbied for survivors' rights to speak publicly, resulting in inclusion of Section 189 of Queensland's Child Protection Act 1999.

**2001:** Launched the Sexual Assault Disclosure Scheme (SADS) in Queensland.

**2002:** Successfully lobbied for children's right to civil compensation in Queensland.

**2003:** Successfully lobbied for 'Continuing Detention' legislation for sexual offenders in Queensland resulting in the *Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act 2003*

Launched the Ditto's Keep Safe Adventure child protection CD-ROM.

**2004:** Successfully lobbied for the introduction of Amber Alerts in Queensland.

Successfully lobbied for "Protecting Children: An inquiry into abuse of children in foster care" (CMC, 2004), resulting in a complete restructure of child protection in Qld

**2005:** Launched the Ditto Keep Safe Adventure! school-based personal safety program.

Western Australia introduces 'Continuing

Detention' legislation mirroring the Qld Dangerous Prisoners Act

**2006:** New South Wales introduces 'Continuing Detention' legislation mirroring the Qld Dangerous Prisoners Act

**2007:** South Australia introduces 'Continuing Detention' legislation mirroring the Qld Dangerous Prisoners Act

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

**2008:** Bravehearts is invited to sit on the Federal Government's Working Party for the development of a National Framework for the Protection of Australia's children.

**2009:** In what is we believe an International first, Bravehearts lobbying saw Australia recognise child sexual assault as distinct from child abuse and neglect through endorsement of the new policy direction in Outcome Six of the National Framework for the Protection of Australia's Children, endorsed by COAG on 30th April 2009.

**2009/2010:** Successfully lobbied for the amendment of State and Federal legislation and protocols relating to Artistic merit and Artistic freedoms to strengthen the protection of children against potential sexual harm and/or exploitation.