

we are
Bravehearts
EDUCATE + EMPOWER + PROTECT





our vision

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



our mission

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

our values

Integrity

We act with integrity, demonstrate accountability, honesty, and at all times, behave ethically.

Respect

We behave and communicate with inclusivity, mindfulness, and professionalism whilst continually embracing diversity.



Energy

We unreservedly apply ourselves using all efforts, power and abilities towards protecting children from child sexual abuse.

Empathy

We seek to genuinely understand other people's experiences, culture and perspectives. In turn, we support individuals and communities in a manner that is meaningful to them.

Bravery

We acknowledge the bravery of survivors and those that support them. Without fear or favour, we seek to ensure that children have a childhood free from sexual harm.



why are we here?

Approximately **1 in 5 children** will experience child sexual abuse¹.

In **at least 90% of child sexual abuse** cases, the offender is known to the family².

98% of all child sexual abuse reports made by children are found to be true³.

A child aged 0-9 years is approximately **40 times more likely** to be the victim of sexual abuse than of kidnapping or abduction⁴.

Approximately **1 in 3 cases of child sexual abuse** are instigated by other young people⁵.

Children with a learning disability are **2.5 times more likely** to be the subject of a sexual abuse allegation than children without a learning disability⁶.

References:

1. Price-Robertson, Bromfield and Vassallo, 2010; Mills, Kisely, Alati, Strathearn, & Najman, 2016; Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, 2017
2. Australian Bureau of Statistics 2017
3. O'Donohue, Cummings & Willis, 2018
4. Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2019
5. Der Bedrosian, 2018; McKibbin, 2017; Finkelhor, Omrod & Chaffin, 2009
6. Helton, Gochez-Kerr & Gruber, 2018

our history

1997

Bravehearts is founded by Hetty Johnston AM following her young daughter's disclosure of sexual abuse. Bravehearts White Balloon Day is launched in the same year.

1998

Bravehearts begins lobbying and its pursuit for law reforms to protect children from child sexual abuse and advocate for the rights of survivors.

2000

Bravehearts' first of 4 therapeutic counselling services is opened in Qld.

2005

Ditto's Keep Safe Adventure Show, Bravehearts' personal safety program for children aged 3 to 8 is launched. Over 1 million children have now seen the program, facilitated through 7 offices throughout Qld, NSW, Vic and Tas.

2006

Supporting Hands online child protection training module for people working with children is launched.

2009

Current head office opens on the Gold Coast, Australia.

2012

Following 16 years of calling for a Royal Commission into child sexual abuse, in November 2012 the Federal Government announces it will hold an inquiry.

2013

Bravehearts' Information and Support Line is established for anyone requiring assistance, information or support on child sexual abuse.

2014

Bravehearts 777 Marathon launches, with participants running 7 marathons in 7 states in 7 days.

2016

Turning Corners is launched to work with young people (12 to 17 years) who have engaged in, or are at risk of engaging in, harmful sexual behaviour.

2017

CyberEcho is released, a cyber-safety program for middle to upper-primary children.

2018

Bravehearts commences 10 years of Redress Service provision through Beyond Brave.

2020

Bravehearts partners with Mackay Women's Services to open The Courage Project, a therapeutic service delivering counselling to children, young people and families in the Mackay and Whitsunday regions.

about us

We are Australia's leading protection organisation, **solely dedicated** to the prevention of child sexual abuse.

We work **holistically** to educate, empower and protect children from child sexual abuse.

We **help prevent** child sexual abuse by educating children and young people about personal safety.

We **support** survivors and victims of child sexual abuse, and their non-offending family members, with accessible and affordable counselling, case management and advocacy.

We **empower** communities through world-class child protection training courses and risk management.



We **fight for the rights** of children and adult survivors by lobbying for legislative reform.

We **stop the stigma** around child sexual abuse through innovative research, public awareness campaigns and community education.

At all times, we act with **respect, integrity, energy, empathy and bravery** as we strive to stop child sexual abuse now.

We **collaborate** with our cohorts as we strive to eradicate child sexual abuse.

Above all else, the **protection of children and survivors** is at the heart of everything we do.



Jiru

(Bundjalung meaning, sun)

Shelley Conway, 2021

Artist's Statement

When our innocence is taken from us, the journey to find true connection and trust in relationships is full of moments that challenge who we are and our place in the world. The triggers, the vulnerability, the uncertainty, the self doubt... the feeling that we are walking this path alone. But we are not alone. Our experiences are our own, yes, our stories uniquely shaping the path before us, yes... but we are connected through empathy, compassion, respect and the sharing of our stories.

When we ask for help and lean into the healing, we no longer have to feel alone. We can learn to trust again and have healthy, loving relationships with ourselves and others. We are safe to speak our truth, be heard and hold space for others who are still finding their voice. We are armed with our education and evolving sense of self. We stand together as a beacon of hope... always healing, learning, growing and teaching.

We are safe, we are worthy and we are powerful in our truth.



Artist's Interpretation

The forest and mountains that surround the valley are a reminder of the hard work that is required to overcome negative self talk. They're also a constant reminder that nature is the perfect place to get lost in to find ourselves. Connection to earth and spirit have been paramount to my own healing journey.

The leaves and their veins are representative of the twists and turns that we navigate upon our path. They are camphor laurel, which grow rampant where I grew up in the Tweed Valley.

The boulders in the river hinder the free flow of love and trust, they represent the barriers that we put up to protect us from further hurt. They slowly move away as we open up to another person, allowing ourselves to be vulnerable by bravely sharing our stories.



At journey's end we find 'Jiru', the Sun! Embracing us lovingly, shining light on the darkness and chasing away the shadows of self doubt. The Sun brings us all together with its radiance and joy. It reminds us that we are not alone when we stand together in the light!

The flow of the river increases in the river until finally the boulders are fewer and appear now as healthy, emotional boundaries. We surround ourselves with a community of our choosing and have a better understanding of self.

Shelter is provided in the way of emotional support through counselling and education. A safe place to heal.

Footprints and tracks between resting places depict our long journey from the moment childhood trauma occurs (sexual abuse) to finding the right people to sit and share with.



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, present and emerging 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.



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



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ALL DONATIONS OVER \$2 ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

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