



Bravehearts^{inc.}
Educate Empower Protect
Our Kids

Churches Partnership Information Pack

**59,000 Children in
Australia will be sexually
assaulted this year!**

**Help us make Australia the safest place
in the world to raise a child**

Support the most important awareness campaign this year.

White Balloon Day

Sunday 12th September, 2010

About Bravehearts Inc[®]

There is not a child in this nation that has not benefited from the tireless work of Bravehearts Inc. Bravehearts has forged a movement for change in how the issue of child sexual assault is dealt with by government, the judiciary and the community at large. Since its inception in 1997, Bravehearts has moved this taboo subject out of the shadows and into the light.

By consistently searching to distinguish child sexual assault from other forms of child abuse and neglect, Bravehearts has brought the issue into focus. As a result of its persistence, this distinction was finally acknowledged and supported by the Commonwealth of Australia and its COAG partners through Outcome Six of the National Framework for the Protection of Australia's Children 2009-2020.

Bravehearts' work in the areas of specialist therapy, support, education, research and legislative reform has made a remarkable, quantifiable and positive difference in protecting everyone's children. Our proven programs are highly effective, our knowledge is unsurpassed and our commitment to achieve our vision is unbridled.

Our **Mission** is to stop child sexual assault in our society.

Our **Vision** is to make Australia the safest place in the world to raise a child.

Our **Guiding Principals** are to, at all times, do all things to serve our Mission without fear or favour and without compromise and to continually ensure that the best interests and protection of the child are placed before all other considerations.



We believe the whole community has the capacity to participate in protecting our children; together we can all make Australia the safest place in the world to raise a child.



About White Balloon Day

Tuesday 7th September 2010

Recommended by the National Framework for Child Protection

White Balloon Day in Australia has raised unprecedented awareness of child sexual assault over the past 14 years. By showing your churches support to **White Balloon Day**, you will help give a voice to those touched by this evil as well as protecting the innocence and sanctity of childhood.

Did you know?

- ♥ 1 in 5 children will be sexually assaulted before they reach their 18th Birthday.
- ♥ This equates to an alarming 59,000 children in Australia every year. Most will never tell anyone. How many children are sitting in your churches right now that are silent victims of this crime? We need your help to provide these children with support and empowerment to 'break the silence' surrounding child sexual assault.
- ♥ Bravehearts is the only Australian children's charity holistically dedicated to the issue of child sexual assault. Our 14th annual **White Balloon Day** is being held during Child Protection Week on 7th September 2010. The aim of this national campaign is to protect Children against sexual assault.
- ♥ In 1999 the 'White Balloon Day' campaign resulted in a staggering 514% increase in disclosures of child sexual assault to Queensland Police Headquarters alone. This proves that **White Balloon Day** really does Work.



We believe the whole community has the capacity to participate in protecting our children; together we can all make Australia the safest place in the world to raise a child.



How You Can Involve Your Church in the 2010 Campaign

There are many ways in which you can involve your church in 2010's 'White Balloon Day' events to help break the silence and protect children.

We believe that Churches here in Australia and overseas desperately need to take a front foot stance on the issue of child sexual assault. Displaying masses of white balloons in front of all churches will involve the church publicly and unequivocally in the fight to protect children and stop child sexual assault. It will send a spine-tingling and brazen message to the media and the general public including that:

- This church has a zero tolerance approach to child sexual assault;
- This church is actively encouraging the need to Break the Silence and to support and believe victims;
- This church will place the need to protect children above all other considerations;
- This church is united with the community, the police and child protection agencies in the fight against child sexual assault;
- This Church and its Clergy are part of the solution.

With this approach, we will begin to re-establish honour, pride, faith and trust in the priesthood both within the priesthood itself and by the general community.

- It is a message the church must send now;
- It is a message that must be unequivocal;
- It is a message that will signal a cultural shift in the way child sexual assault is understood, responded to and prevented into the future – not just by churches but by all organisations and individuals;
- It is a message that will first be seen and heard in Australia and then unfold around the globe;
- It is a message that will protect thousands of children and provide comfort and confidence to victims and the general community.



*We believe the whole community has the capacity to participate
in protecting our children; together we can all make Australia
the safest place in the world to raise a child.*



The humble 'white balloon' is a powerful token symbolising that the need to protect children comes before all other considerations and that together, we are united in protecting the innocence and sanctity of childhood.

Here are a few ideas:

- ♥ Dedicate the Sunday 12th September service to the issue of child protection in your sermon and by openly displaying white balloons outside your church.
- ♥ Decorate your Church (inside and out) with white balloons to show that you are a church that holds the protection of your children as its priority;
- ♥ Invite Bravehearts to speak to your staff and/or congregation, by holding a 'Supporting Hands' workshop to help your church understand more about child sexual assault, how to identify it, what to do if a child discloses and how to respond effectively and meaningfully.
- ♥ Consider holding a 'Wear White Day' or hosting White morning tea where the congregation can make a donation to the White Balloon Day Appeal. This will raise funds and awareness for Bravehearts Inc – White Balloon Day.

Feel free to use your imagination and create unique ways to get involved with White Balloon Day.

Your support will ensure the issue is not ignored or forgotten.

For more information:

www.bravehearts.org.au

www.whiteballoonday.com.au

Phone: 1800 BRAVE 1



We believe the whole community has the capacity to participate in protecting our children; together we can all make Australia the safest place in the world to raise a child.

