

**MEDIA RELEASE: EMBARGOED: 0800 AEST: 7 SEPTEMBER 2011**

**White Balloon Day 2011 - As Part of National Child Protection Week (5-11 September)**  
**Bravehearts Newly Appointed Ambassador, Sascha Chandler Announces the Development of**  
**'CyberEcho' - A National Strategy Designed to Educate Children 9-18 on Personal Safety**

Today, to mark national White Balloon Day (a national focus of Child Protection Week 5 - 11 September), Bravehearts Inc. will announce the development of a unique education program specifically targeting senior primary students and teenagers to educate, empower and protect them against sexual assault.

With the recognised success of Bravehearts *Ditto's Keep Safe Adventure Education Program* for children aged 3 to 8, the release today of a research report on the unrivalled success of Bravehearts school-based education program and the announcement of the development of Bravehearts' *CyberEcho* education program for older students, sees Bravehearts continuing its national leadership role in child protection.

Bravehearts' Founder and Executive Director, Hetty Johnston who currently sits on the Federal Governments' working party on Cyber-Safety said, "We know from the outcome of our research that our in-school *Ditto's Keep Safe Adventure Education Program* is highly effective and is playing a powerful role in protecting young children from sexual assault, with results showing unequivocally that the program is effective in reducing child sexual assault and its harmful effects by up to 50%.

"Moreover, as a direct result of the Ditto program, Bravehearts receives between 4 and 8 phone calls a week relating to concerns about child sexual assault," Ms Johnston said.

"The research, combined with greater public education about the risks of child sexual assault has emphasised the need for widespread preventative programs to be developed and implemented, particularly for older students.

"With increased internet access to children of all ages, the development of the Bravehearts *CyberEcho* education program will make substantial inroads in protecting upper primary and high school students from predators both in their own environment and in the world of cyberspace," Ms Johnston said.

In Australia, 59,000 children are sexually assaulted every year with an estimated one in five children sexually assaulted before their 18th birthday. From all corners of our 'lucky country', 1134 of our children are being sexually assaulted every week. That's 162 children every day; nearly 7 (6.75) every hour or; one child around every 9 minutes who is suffering the heartbreak and trauma of sexual assault at the hands of a predator who, in 80 to 90% of cases is a relative or a trusted family friend, with only 10-20% of cases occurring at the hands of a stranger.

At a special *White Balloon Day* event held at the ABC Learning Centre in St Leonards, Ms Johnston will introduce Sascha Chandler as the newly appointed Ambassador and spokesperson for Bravehearts who will announce Bravehearts' development of the *CyberEcho* in-school education program.

Mr Chandler, a father of three, fell victim to paedophilia as a teenager at the hands of the man now known as one of Australia's most heavily convicted paedophiles, Andrew McIntosh.

“I was just a boy in high school when I fell victim to a predator. I know first-hand, the pain and suffering inflicted on victims and in my personal battle to overcome the heartache and fight to see justice unfold through the court system, I know how vital this education program will be for kids and teenagers across Australia,” Mr Chandler said.

“Currently, Bravehearts’ Ditto program can help protect the little ones in early learning centres and lower primary school. However, the need to carry this special personal safety education through to help older kids and give them strategies that they can implement to empower them to protect themselves, is a vital step in making Australia the safest place in the world to raise a child,” he said.

“As a father and a survivor, I feel privileged to announce the development of Bravehearts *CyberEcho* in-school education program which, when launched will empower young people in every classroom in every corner of Australia,” Mr Chandler said.

The development of the *CyberEcho* in-school program is well underway with completion dependant on a substantial injection of funds. Designed to build on the knowledge acquired by students during the Ditto lower primary school program, *CyberEcho* will also incorporate elements that specifically focus on cyber-safety and the appropriate use of mobile phone technology.

Australian Federal Police Commander Grant Edwards, Manager of the Australian Federal Police High Tech Crime Operations and Cyber Crime, conducts operations encompassing child protection, cyber crime investigations and crime prevention, acknowledged the announcement of *CyberEcho* as a major step in child protection.

“We have seen the incredible benefits of the Bravehearts *Ditto’s Keep Safe Adventure* as a personal safety education program for young children in the prevention of child sexual assault.

“Now, with the development of the *CyberEcho* in-school program for older students to build on the lessons they have learned at an early age, the program promises to be an important education strategy in extending child protection safety to the 9 to 18 year-old age group,” he said.

In celebrating the awareness created by the annual *White Balloon Day*, Hetty Johnston said, “Bravehearts believes communities in every corner of Australia have a responsibility to get involved in protecting their children, and we’re inviting all Australians - individuals, businesses and communities to get behind *White Balloon Day* and join us in saying NO to child sexual assault.

Now in its 15<sup>th</sup> Year, *White Balloon Day* is Bravehearts’ signature event as a national day of awareness and recognition offering support for the victims of child sexual assault and this year aims to raise \$500,000 to enable the continuation of its essential work in education, advocacy and support services to protect all Australian children from child sexual assault.

“By working together, we can help give a voice to those touched by this issue, raise vital funds to support our programs that educate, empower and protect Aussie kids and help make Australia the safest place in the world to raise a child,” Ms Johnston said.

Purchase White Balloons, pins and pens at any branch of Bendigo Bank and Autobarn stores, or visit [www.whiteballoonday.com.au](http://www.whiteballoonday.com.au) to make a donation, register your White event or for more information on *White Balloon Day* and child protection. [www.whiteballoonday.com.au](http://www.whiteballoonday.com.au) - Bravehearts 1800 BRAVE1 (272 831).

**ENDS - For interview opportunities, please see page 3 of this media kit.**

## INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITIES INCLUDE

- ♥ Hetty Johnston - Founder and Executive Director, Bravehearts
- ♥ Carol Ronken - Research and Policy Development Manager, Bravehearts (by phone)
- ♥ Grant Edwards - Manager, Australian Federal Police, High Tech Crime Operations Cyber Crime
- ♥ Sascha Chandler - Ambassador, Spokesperson and survivor
- ♥ Angry Anderson AM - Ambassador - *White Balloon Day* 2011 & Bravehearts Inc.

## State & Territory Spokespersons Available for Interview Include:

QLD	Hetty Johnston - Founder and Executive Director, Bravehearts
NT	Dr. Reina Michaelson - Psychologist
WA	Graeme Castlehow - Detective Superintendent, Sex Crimes Division, WA Police
NSW	John Kerlatec APM - Detective Inspector, Commander Sex Crimes Squad NSW Police
NSW	Barbara Holborow - Former Children's Court Magistrate
SA	Ian Hopley - Former Police Officer, Member of Child Abuse Consultancy Education and Training
VIC	Simon Illingworth - Bravehearts Advisory Committee
VIC	Jon Mamonski - Deputy Chair – Bravehearts Victoria
VIC	Greg Layton - Board Member, Bravehearts
TAS	Stephen Noone – Bravehearts Tasmania
TAS	Steven Fischer - Beyond Abuse

**For a copy of the preliminary research report, more information, photographs or to arrange an interview please contact Insight Communications.**

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**Bravehearts is grateful to our partners for their support that enables us to continue our work in educating, empowering and protecting Australian children.**



## Journalist Notes

In a research study commissioned by Bravehearts Inc and conducted by psychologist Nicole Barrett it was determined that ignorance of child sexual assault is frequently documented as one of the principal factors inhibiting its prevention and prolonging the suffering and distress of its many victims.

**The powerful role of the media**, in forming belief systems and attitudes toward sexuality and sexual practices, is widely recognised. The NSW Child Sexual Abuse Task Force support this view and argue that the benefits of raising community awareness about the problem of child sexual assault, such as the production of pamphlets, posters, displays, film and video collections, TV and Radio community service announcements cannot be overestimated.<sup>1</sup>

With the media's support for *White Balloon Day*, together we can make a major impact on preventing child sexual assault.

<sup>1</sup> NSW Woods Royal Commission Aug 1997 Vol V pg 1202

### **Ditto's Keep Safe Adventure Education Program – It's Fun! It's Safe! It Works!**

The *Ditto's Keep Safe Adventure Education Program* is recognised as a most significant advancement in child protection with children demonstrating sound improvements in their awareness and understanding of safety behaviours and retaining information about personal safety. After participating in Ditto's program, children are able to identify 'yes' and 'no' feelings, private parts, warning signs and what to do in the event that they felt unsafe. Importantly, it teaches children to "run and tell someone you trust".

In a detailed evaluation from psychologist Nicole Barrett, the effectiveness of the Bravehearts unique child protection program demonstrated unequivocally that the program is effective in reducing child sexual assault and its harmful effects by up to 50%, providing convincing evidence to support the benefits of this nationwide-wide initiative.

By the end of 2011, the Bravehearts' *Ditto's Keep Safe Adventure Education Program* will have presented the three-part, in-school program in multiple regions throughout Australia reaching and protecting more than 50,000 children this year.

### **Ditto's Keep Safe Adventure Education Program – How it works**

The *Ditto's Keep Safe Adventure Education Program* teaches children basic principles and the tools to stay safe. The findings in the study by Nicole Barrett, Psychologist verify and strengthen Bravehearts resolve that education and prevention is an effective strategy to reduce the prevalence of child sexual assault in Australia.

The program developed in collaboration with child protection experts, academics and professionals from Australia and abroad, is specifically designed to teach children the skills to keep safe in a non-confronting and fun way. It is comprised of three key elements:

- ♥ Ditto's Keep Safe Adventure Show
- ♥ Ditto's Keep Safe Activity Book
- ♥ Ditto's Keep Safe Adventure CD–Rom

## Statistics on Child Sexual Assault in Australia

- ♥ 59,000 Australian children are sexually assaulted in Australia each year <sup>2</sup>
- ♥ An estimated one in five Australian children will be sexually assaulted before their 18th birthday
- ♥ In 95% of cases, the offender is known to the child and is a relative or a trusted friend
- ♥ Only 5% of child sexual assault cases are “stranger danger”
- ♥ One in three child sexual offenders are adolescent <sup>3</sup>
  2. The number of children under 18 (according to the ABS) and applied by the 1 in 5 statistic
  3. Bagley, C. (1995), Child sexual abuse and mental health in adolescents and adults

## The Effects of Child Sexual Assault on Individuals and the Community

Child sexual assault could trigger the development of future violent behaviour resulting in criminal convictions, psychosomatic responses, psychiatric disorders, long-lasting emotional problems; youth suicide, regression, sleeping and eating disorders, lack of self esteem; nightmares, self-hatred and mutilation, promiscuous behaviour and aggression. A wide variety of later effects have been pointed out including sexual difficulties, inability to form lasting relationships, a serious lack of self-confidence, marital problems and poor parenting skills.<sup>4</sup>

A study of child sexual assault victims found:

- ♥ 32% had attempted suicide and 43% had thought about suicide <sup>5</sup>
- ♥ In Australia, suicide now claims more men annually than the national road toll
- ♥ In 2000, 1860 men and 503 women committed suicide <sup>6</sup>
- ♥ Some 70% of psychiatric patients are known to have been sexually assaulted as children <sup>7</sup>
- ♥ 80 to 85 per cent of women in Australian prisons have been victims of incest or other forms of abuse <sup>8</sup>
- ♥ 70% of all prisoners were assaulted as children <sup>9</sup>
- ♥ On the basis of therapeutic experience Ross (1995) suggests that only approximately 5 percent of victims go on to become abusers <sup>10</sup>

4. Waters & Kelk, 1991. Oates & Tong 1987; Australian Institute of Criminology Paper on Paedophilia – Effect on Victims
5. A study of Suicide Risk Following Child Sexual Abuse – Angela Plunkett, BA, MHP, FRACMA. FRACP, FAFPHM, DCH, Sandra Shrimpton, BA, GDACP, and Patrick Parkinson, MA, LL.M. – Ambulatory Paediatrics: Vol. 1 No.5, pp. 262-266
6. Children’s Commission of Qld, Paedophilia in Qld Report, 5 August 1997
7. Children’s Commissions’ report into paedophilia August 5, 1997
8. Volume 19 (2) of the 1994 Alternative Law Journal cited in Commonwealth Senator Andrew Murray Hansard 19 June 2002 Page 2061
9. Children’s Commissions’ report into paedophilia August 5, 1997
10. Managing Sex Offenders, NSW Child Protection Council 2000

## The Economic Costs to the Australian Community

Research, funded by a Criminology Research Council Grant, conservatively estimates the tangible cost to society of child sexual assault to be in excess of \$180,000 per child.<sup>11</sup> At a national level, the Australian Bureau of Criminal Intelligence (ABCI) conservatively estimates 40,000 Australian children will be sexually assaulted each year.<sup>12</sup> - That’s \$7.2 Billion dollars annually. In South Australia, the Department of Human Services conservatively estimated the cost of child abuse and neglect in 1995-96 to be \$354 million. Over the same period, that figure is more than the State earned from the sale of both its wine (\$318 million) and its wool (\$239 million).<sup>13</sup>

11. Professor Freda Briggs - A cost-benefit analysis of child sex-offender treatment programs for male offenders in correctional services; Child Protection Research Group; University of South Australia March 1999
12. ABCI
13. Commonwealth Senator Andrew Murray Hansard 19 June 2002 Page 2061

## Indicators of Child Sexual Assault for Parents & Teachers

As children often lack the words to describe sexual assault, they find it exceptionally difficult to disclose. The more severe the degree of abuse, the less likely it is that the child/young person will disclose. The fear of a negative reaction and possible punishment can also stop children from speaking out.

Children may try to subtly open the conversation by asking “ Do you like so and so?... I don’t” or “I’ve got a secret” but there are a number of physical and behavioural symptoms that indicate a child or young person may have been harmed.

**While physical and behavioural symptoms should be viewed as a sign that something may be worrying the child, it should NOT be automatically assumed that abuse is occurring.** By talking to the child, this may reveal something quite innocent so be sure to speak with the child before making accusations.

### What to Look For

Parents, teachers, carers, child protection workers, counsellors and so on, all need to know the symptoms of child sexual assault so if there are significant changes in behaviour, increased fears, or physical symptoms, they can talk to the child to discuss what they might be feeling.

Common Indicators in Children	Common Indicators in Offenders
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♥ Fear of being hurt during nappy change or dressing</li> <li>♥ Loss of concentration</li> <li>♥ Development of eating disorders</li> <li>♥ Fear of being alone with a particular person</li> <li>♥ Sexual themes in artwork, stories, play etc.</li> <li>♥ Showing a knowledge of sexual behaviour beyond their years</li> <li>♥ Bedwetting or soiling after being toilet trained</li> <li>♥ “Acting out” behaviours; for example, aggression, destructive behaviours, truanting behaviour</li> <li>♥ “Acting in” behaviours; for example, withdrawal from friends, depression</li> <li>♥ Vaginal, penile or anal soreness, discharge or bleeding</li> <li>♥ Problems with friends and schoolwork</li> <li>♥ Vague symptoms of illness such as headache or tummy ache</li> <li>♥ Self-harming</li> <li>♥ Inappropriate displays of affection or sexualised play</li> <li>♥ Over attention to adults of a particular sex</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♥ Paying particular interest to a child</li> <li>♥ Isolating a child from other children</li> <li>♥ Engaging in inappropriate/unwanted close physical contact with a child</li> <li>♥ More interested in children than adults</li> <li>♥ Suspicious behaviour in relation to children (watching/following/photos/gifts)</li> <li>♥ Often has a special ‘child friend’</li> <li>♥ Encourages secrets in children</li> <li>♥ Links sexuality and aggression in language or behaviour</li> <li>♥ Makes reference to or makes fun of children’s bodies</li> <li>♥ Describes children with sexual words</li> <li>♥ Seems unclear about what is appropriate with children and what is not</li> <li>♥ Has an interest in sexual fantasies involving children</li> <li>♥ Looks at or downloads child pornography</li> <li>♥ Asks adult partners to actor dress like a child or teenager during sexual activity</li> </ul>

## White Balloon Day

*White Balloon Day* was established to prevent child sexual assault in Australia. It is Bravehearts' signature national event and in 2011 marks the 15th consecutive year as a national day of awareness and recognition that offers support for the victims of child sexual assault.

*White Balloon Day* is also the principle fundraising initiative. In 2011, we aim to raise \$500,000 to support their essential programs enabling Bravehearts to continue to educate, empower and protect all Aussie kids.

*White Balloon Day 2011 is proudly sponsored by the Federal Government under the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children.*

### 2011 *White Balloon Day* Aims to Educate, Empower and Protect Our Kids

- ♥ **Educate** – the most important focus of *White Balloon Day* is education. This year, there will be a major focus on raising awareness and expanding the distribution of the Bravehearts Inc. education materials to parents, schools and children.
- ♥ **Empower** – with the tools learned from Bravehearts' education program, children can identify inappropriate behaviour and learn valuable strategies for what to do if they feel unsafe.
- ♥ **Protect** – to give everyone in the community a sense of responsibility to protect children. This message is primarily targeted at parents who should be encouraged to not only protect their own children, but their children's friends and children in their community who may not have the same level of support at home.

### How Australians Can Help

- ♥ Register a 'White' event at home or work and help raise awareness and funds. Events may include a morning or afternoon tea, a sausage sizzle or a fundraising car wash.
- ♥ Purchase merchandise including white balloons/keyrings etc at our website, at Autobarn or at your local Bendigo Bank branch
- ♥ Create a 'Wear White Wednesday' 7 September and SAY NO to child sexual assault
- ♥ Donate to support the vital work of Bravehearts in protecting Aussie kids

### How The Funds You Raise Can Help Aussie Kids

- ♥ \$100 will protect 10 school-aged children through Bravehearts' school education program – '*Ditto's Keep Safe Adventure*'
- ♥ \$50 will give one counselling session to a child in need
- ♥ \$25 will give support for a parent/guardian with Bravehearts' professional counselling team
- ♥ Provide online access to information and support materials for children and adults affected by child sexual assault
- ♥ Reduce waiting lists for children and families in need of counselling and support

## Bravehearts Inc.

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, legislative reform and the provision of online resources 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.

### Bravehearts - Preventing Child Sexual Assault

- ♥ Educating kids about personal safety not only increases protective factors, but enhances resilience and encourages a positive sense of self
- ♥ School-based personal safety programs play a vital role in preventing child sexual assault, equipping children with the knowledge and skills they need to identify unsafe or risky situations, giving them an understanding of their rights to protect themselves and their own body
- ♥ In 2011, Bravehearts' 'Ditto's Keep Safe Adventure' education teams will have presented the in-school program in multiple regions throughout Australia reaching and protecting more than 50,000 children
- ♥ As a direct result of the 'Ditto's Keep Safe Adventure' education program, Bravehearts receives between 4 and 8 phone calls a week relating to concerns about child sexual assault
- ♥ In the 2010/11 financial year, Bravehearts' provided more than 2000 individual counselling sessions, responded to 1500+ crisis calls from Australia and overseas, and made approximately 200 advocacy representations
- ♥ If you feel that yourself or a member of your family requires counselling, please contact Bravehearts' experienced and qualified counsellors on 1800 BRAVE1 (272 831)

### Bravehearts' Programs and Services Include:

- ♥ Specialist counselling for children who have been or are at risk of child sexual assault and support for non-offending family members
- ♥ Freecall Crisis Line: 1800 BRAVE 1 (272 831).- Telephone support for adult survivors of child sexual assault
- ♥ Professional advocacy and support
- ♥ Ditto's Keep Safe Adventure – A live school-based personal safety education program for children
- ♥ Resources for families and survivors, including interactive materials and workshops
- ♥ Research and lobbying
- ♥ Community awareness campaigns
- ♥ Sexual Assault Disclosure Scheme – SADS
- ♥ Online resources for schools, individuals, families and community groups

## The Value of Bravehearts in Protecting Aussie Kids - Testimonials

Congratulations to Bravehearts on the success of *White Balloon Day* in raising awareness of the critical importance of protecting children against sexual assault. Congratulations also to all at Bravehearts for your ongoing work educating, empowering and protecting Australia's children and adult survivors of child sexual assault through a very effective and impressive range of programs. Your mission to stop child sexual assault in our society resonates with all Australians.

The National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009-2020, endorsed by the Council of Australian Governments in 2009, is providing the foundation for national reform, with a focus on promoting the safety and wellbeing of children. Building on this foundation, we can aspire to achieve your vision of making Australia the safest place in the world to raise a child.

**The Hon. Julia Gillard – Australian Prime Minister (2011)**

"I congratulate Hetty and Bravehearts for the work they have done and their determination to break the silence on child abuse throughout Australian and the world. Bravehearts gives hope to survivors of abuse."

**His Excellency The Hon. Kim Beazley - Former Federal Labor Leader (2005)**

"I imagine you have received letters from the many people who support your work or who just want to put a stop to child abuse... I wanted to offer my own personal words of support to you... I look forward to your ongoing involvement in the activism and debate around child safety."

**Peter Beattie - Former Queensland Premier (2005)**

"Bravehearts was instrumental in Queensland in pushing for the CMC Inquiry into sexual assaults and other forms of abuse of children in foster care. As a consequence, issues of child sexual assault are now being taken more seriously than ever before and governments are under greater scrutiny to act. More and more victims are now speaking out."

**The Hon. Lawrence Springborg – Queensland Deputy Opposition Leader (2005)**

"Congratulations on the development and production of the interactive CD which tackles the very difficult and complex issue of children's personal safety. I commend Bravehearts for its endeavours to address the issues of children's safety and feelings in the context of child protection and broader public safety."

**Robin Sullivan – Former Queensland Commissioner for Children and Young People (2003)**

"In terms of levels of reporting of child sexual assault, in terms of affirmation and acknowledgment of survivors and in terms of heightened public awareness, *White Balloon Day* has been a very significant success."

**Jim Soorley – Former Brisbane Lord Mayor (2001)**

"Bravehearts offers a valuable service to the community in providing both support and advocacy for those affected by sexual abuse and contributes, in a very constructive way, to the provision of a rational, uniform and supportive framework for dealing with the problem."

**Tim Carmody SC – Former Queensland Crime Commissioner (2001)**

## Hetty Johnston - Founder and Executive Director of Bravehearts Inc

Hetty Johnston is the Founder and Executive Director of Bravehearts Inc, Australia's leading child protection advocate. A born lobbyist, Hetty is a woman of passion and determination who is breaking the silence surrounding the issue of paedophilia within media, families, schools and the general community.

Hetty established Bravehearts in 1997. Bravehearts is an organisation whose purpose is to provide therapy, support and advocacy services to survivors of child sexual assault, and to increase prevention - by way of education and awareness - to both adults and children.

In 2005, Hetty was announced as a finalist for the 2006 Australian of the Year Awards – she is the recipient of two Australian Lawyers Alliance Civil Justice Awards (2003,2004) and was named a finalist in the 2008 Suncorp Queenslander of the Year Awards.

In early 2009, Hetty was recognised as one of approximately 70 outstanding leaders throughout the world, receiving the prestigious annual Toastmasters International Communication and Leadership award. She has authored her autobiography, *'In the Best Interests of the Child'*, and has been a contributing author to various books including *'Crime on my Mind'* and *'Woman on Top'*.

Hetty's achievements include:

- Chaired the Queensland Child Protection Week Committee for three years
- Held a position on the Board of NAPCAN (National Association for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect)
- Held a position on the Board with ASCA (Advocates for Survivors of Child Abuse)
- Sat as Chair for the Endeavour Foundation's 'Abuse Prevention and Response Committee'
- Recently sat on the 2008 Federal Government's Working Party on a 'National Approach to Child Protection'
- Currently sits on the Federal Governments working party on Cyber-Safety

Hetty works with government and non-government agencies on legislative reform, submissions, lobbying and research to improve child protection and political accountability in Australia.

## Commander Grant Edwards – Australian Federal Police

Grant joined the AFP in 1985 and was initially posted to Sydney before spending periods in Newcastle, Canberra and three years as a Police Liaison Officer in Los Angeles, USA. He has enjoyed a very diverse career working in fields such as airport policing, family law, international drug trafficking, major organised crime human trafficking, child exploitation and people smuggling.

In 2006 He was promoted to the rank of Commander as Manager Criminal Intelligence Collection where he was responsible for leading a number of key areas including the AFP's undercover and human source collection programs.

In January 2008 Grant was posted to Timor Leste in a multi faceted role as Security Advisor to the Secretary of State for Security within the Government of Timor Leste and responsible for managing the enhanced Timor Leste Police Development Program (TLPDP) and the AFP's United Nations commitment (UNMIT) in Timor-Leste.

Grant is presently the Manager of the AFP's High Tech Crime Operations Cyber Crime. Operations encompassing child protection operations, cyber crime investigations and crime prevention. Grant holds a Diploma in Environmental Management, a Bachelor of Arts (ANU) majoring in Anthropology, Australian History and Indigenous Studies and post graduate qualifications in leadership and policing studies through the Australian Institute of Police Management and Charles Sturt University. He is a graduate of the FBI Law Enforcement Senior Executive Program and is a member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

## Carol Ronken – Bravehearts' Research and Policy Manager

Carol Ronken worked as a researcher and Associate Lecturer at Griffith University in the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice before joining Bravehearts in early 2003.

With a BA(Psych) and Masters in Social Research, Carol is the Research Manager for Bravehearts and is passionate about ensuring the organisation's active involvement in research, policy and legislative development aims to prevent, respond to, and ultimately reduce the incidence of child sexual assault in the community.

## Sascha Chandler - Ambassador & NSW Spokesperson - Bravehearts Inc.

Sascha Chandler was born in the mid 1970's. Sascha and his younger brother grew up on Sydney's upper North Shore attending school at Barker College. During his childhood Sascha enjoyed participating in school sports such as rugby, tennis and swimming. It was in the college's cadet unit that Sascha found his true calling and through perseverance and dedication, achieved the units' top student rank of Senior Cadet Under Officer (SUO).

It was in his student years at Barker College when Sascha fell victim to paedophilia at the hands of the man now known to be one of Australia's most heavily convicted paedophiles, Andrew McIntosh. McIntosh was a respected member of the school community and as is often the case, he ingratiated himself with the Chandler family who trusted him with their sons.

Over a three-year period, McIntosh committed regular acts of assault on Sascha. In 1993, following his HSC Sascha graduated from Barker College determined to create a fresh start free of the torment he had suffered as a teenage boy at the hands of McIntosh. It was not easy to leave the memory of his abuse behind and Sascha faced and overcame many battles including drug dependency to go on and start a career in the fast-paced world of financial markets.

In late 1996, Sascha and his girlfriend Natalie (now his wife), moved to London where Sascha quickly found success working for several investment banks commencing in the role of Bond Trader for one of Europe's largest institutions. This became the foundation of his colourful and highly successful career in the financial sector. Following several years in London, Sascha and Natalie moved to Germany where they remained for a year before taking an extended world trip.

In 1998, now feeling stronger in his recovery from the scars of his past, and with a deep sense of adventure and interest in third world cultures and communities, and over an 18 month period, Sascha and Natalie undertook a world backpacking adventure through 3 continents and 27 countries.

Sascha and Natalie married in Sydney in February 2000 and returned to Europe where Sascha took up a senior role for an international investment bank in the Netherlands where the couple enjoyed the culturally rich Amsterdam and spent most weekends travelling Europe.

Sascha became a father in September of 2002 when his daughter was born in London. "The birth of my first child changed my life forever... I was responsible for another human being". This realisation was catalytic to Sascha choosing to reveal the assault he endured as a child starting him on his journey in the pursuit of justice. Sascha returned to Australia in 2004 with his young family where they made a home in Sydney's southern beaches. The Chandlers are now a family of five with Natalie giving birth to a son in 2004 and a second son in 2007.

Sascha now works as a consultant in the financial services space utilising his extensive knowledge of international markets to assist local institutions with their profitability and growth strategies and is an active member of his community and sits on the committee of Elouera SLSC where he is an age manager of the under 6 and 7 boys Nippers squad.

In 2006, the family purchased 100 acres of rural land in the NSW Southern Highlands where they are working toward creating farm stay accommodation with the aim of providing a free "get away" experience amid the serenity of the Australian bush for families preparing for trials or suffering hardship as a result of child sexual abuse. Sascha's journey toward justice lasted nine-long-years and culminated in the conviction of Andrew McIntosh who was sentenced to 32 years imprisonment.

"I have learned so much about the legal process in both the civil and criminal domain... Above all, I have learned how powerful strength through unity is and can testify directly to strength of the human spirit when truly tested".

Sascha is committed to dedicating a large part of his life to work with organisations (charities, police and DPP) to raise awareness, provide education and ultimately make Australia the safest country in the world to raise children. Sascha is currently working with the police developing recruit education programs and spends time consulting to adult victims of abuse.

In August 2011, Sascha accepted the invitation to become an Ambassador and NSW official spokesperson for Bravehearts saying, "I take my responsibility as Bravehearts Ambassador and spokesperson very seriously and I look forward to continuing the great work that Hetty and her team have been doing across Australia.

"The prevention of child sexual assault and the healing of victims of abuse and their families is my driving passion and together I believe we can make a significant difference in this country." Sascha Chandler - August 2011