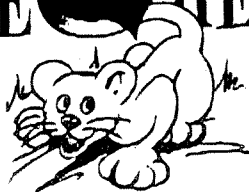


INQUIRY INTO PROTECTION OF PUBLIC SECTOR WHISTLEBLOWER EMPLOYEES

Organisation: Bravehearts
Name: Ms Carol Ronken
Position: Research and Policy Manager
Telephone:
Date received: 26/08/2008

BRAVE HEARTS



"Protecting children against sexual assault"

Fax

Date: Tuesday, 26 August 2008

No. of Pages (incl. cover): 3

Att: Committee on the Independent Commission
Against Corruption

Fax #

From: Carol Ronken (Research & Policy Development Manager)

Re: Bravehearts submission

This facsimile may contain confidential information intended for the addressee. If you received this information and you are not the addressee, please telephone this office on immediately. The sender does not waive confidentiality.

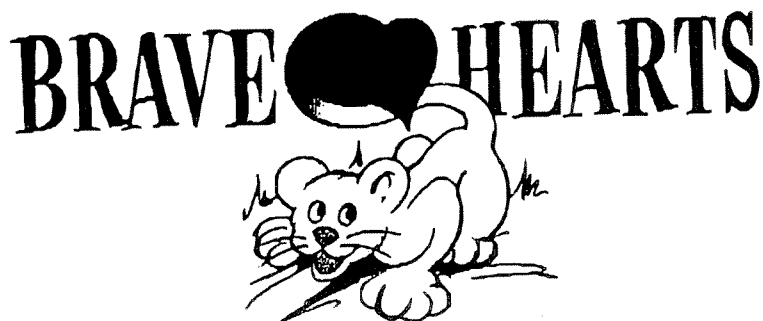
Message:

To Whom It May Concern:

Please find following Bravehearts' submission to the Inquiry into the Protection of Public Sector Whistleblower Employees

Warm Regards

Carol Ronken



"Protecting children against sexual assault"

Tuesday, 26 August 2008

Mr Frank Terenzini MP for Maitland
Chairman
Committee on the Independent Commission Against Corruption
Parliament House
Macquarie Street, Sydney, NSW 2000
Fax: (02) 9230 3309

Inquiry into the Protection of Public Sector Whistleblower Employees

Dear Committee:

Bravehearts Inc is a not for profit organisation specialising in child sexual assault. Bravehearts has been operating for over 10 years providing child focused healing and preventative strategies including comprehensive therapeutic, support and education programs. In addition, we are heavily involved in legislative reform and research. Based in Queensland, Bravehearts has branches in Brisbane, the Gold Coast, Cairns, Margaret River and Sydney.

Bravehearts has had a direct involvement in the recent criminal case against former NSW MP, Milton Orkopoulos, and as such has an interest in ensuring the protection of those with complaints relating to the conduct of NSW government officials and members of Parliament.

It is imperative that there be an official but confidential process introduced so that those working in the public sector (including interns and students) are provided with a means to safely express concerns and complaints.

A specialised unit to provide information, support and security in disclosure for whistleblowers needs to be established. Such a unit is not a new concept, with Queensland's Crime and Misconduct Commission (for example) having responsibility for the witness protection program. It may be worthwhile investigating how Units in other States are set up and any assessment of their programs to assist with best practice in NSW.

The protection of those able and willing to provide information on misconduct and criminal activity by NSW government officials or members of Parliament is critical to ensuring that concerns are expressed in order to uphold the integrity of Government.

For those members and personnel who directly deal with young people, the policies and procedures inside Parliament House itself need to clearly define what is acceptable and unacceptable around behaviours and interaction with those young people (for example, documenting and recording comings and goings after hours, contact outside of Parliament etc.).

We thank you for the opportunity to provide this submission to the Inquiry and look forward to hearing the outcome of this review. Please contact us if further information or clarification is required in relation to this submission. Bravehearts would be happy to consult with ICAC around this issues if requested.

Warm Regards



Hetty Johnston
Founder & Executive Director



Carol Ronken
Criminologist. BA (psych). MAppSoc (social research)
Research and Policy Manager