

## OUR STORY

PACT's story begins more than 35 years ago, during a child abuse seminar in 1985. During this seminar, the presenter called upon the audience to make a pact to 'protect all children, today.' Two detective sergeants, David Jefferies and Dugald MacMillan, took this message to heart. They approached Kay McGrath, the well-known TV presenter who was covering the seminar for her TV channel and together they decided to create a community-based organisation promoting child protection. PACT was officially formed in Kay's house, as she, David and Dugald signed the paperwork to create an organisation called Protect All Children Today.

Over the coming years, other leading child protection advocates joined PACT. PACT was instrumental in helping change investigative processes, which included the taping of the initial police interview with child victims and the use of multi-disciplinary investigation techniques. In 1990, PACT created and launched the first Child Protection Week campaign, to help bring abuse and neglect out of the shadows and put child wellbeing on the national agenda. National Child Protection Week is now recognised annually in September.

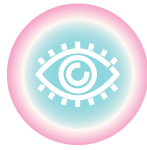
In recent times, PACT has focused on filling an important gap; supporting child victims of crime and child witnesses who have to give evidence in court.

Now, PACT's dedicated volunteers support over

**1,800 children**

through legal proceedings

**every year.**



## OUR VISION

Every child is **supported through the legal and court system**, with the confidence to speak up and feel heard as they give their best evidence.



## OUR PURPOSE

To **educate, empower and support** child witnesses as they prepare to give evidence, and to be by their side as they give their best evidence in court.



## OUR VALUES

We value children and their right to be heard, without fear or compromise. **Using compassion, honesty and reassurance we help children** to realise their strength to journey through the legal and court system, and the stage beyond.



FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED @  
[www.pact.org.au](http://www.pact.org.au)

PO Box 12672, George St QLD 4003  
Level 2, 415 George Street, Brisbane QLD 4000

**Ph:** (07) 3738 7827

**Toll Free:** 1800 449 632  
[pact@pact.org.au](mailto:pact@pact.org.au)



Find us on Facebook



# PACT

**WE EDUCATE,  
EMPOWER AND  
SUPPORT VICTIMS  
TO GIVE EVIDENCE**

To date, PACT has helped more than 27,000 children and their families through the court process

The entire legal process from arrest to trial can take more than 2 years and along the way there are often unexpected, frustrating delays. PACT plays an important role in supporting victims at each step through the entire process:

**01 REFERRAL**  
Once an arrest is made, the police officer makes a referral to PACT. A trained PACT Support Person is allocated to the child to provide support throughout their legal journey.

**02 INTRODUCTION**  
PACT contacts the child and their carer to give an overview of our support services and the court process, and to answer any initial questions, listen to concerns and express empathy and support.

**03 IN-PERSON MEETING**  
PACT meets with the child and their carer in person to get to know the child and begin building rapport. Later, when the child is in high stress situations such as giving evidence, they will already feel comfortable with their volunteer who will be by their side to support them. In this visit, the volunteer further explains the court process to educate the child about what to expect, reducing their anxiety about the unknown and helping them find their voice without fear.

**04 EVIDENCE VIEWING (93A)**  
PACT supports the child as they view a recording of their initial statement to police, as part of their preparation to give evidence. PACT helps to keep the child attentive, focused and calm, as a less distressed child is far more likely to better comprehend and remember their evidence.


**05 REGULAR CHECK-INS & SUPPORT**  
With the whole legal process taking from six months to more than two years, PACT stays in touch with the child and their carer to keep them informed and supported. PACT volunteers may also accompany the child to a prosecutor's conference, and give them a tour of the court building and pre-recording room where they will give evidence.


**06 COURT DAY & PRE-RECORDING OF EVIDENCE (21AK)**  
PACT helps minimise any stress to the child throughout the day of court and the process of giving evidence. Sitting next to the child, PACT supports them as they speak to the judge, prosecutor and defence counsel over a video link. PACT also keeps witnesses safe in court by isolating them from the defendant and their supporters in dedicated suites.


**07 VICTIMS' RIGHTS & ASSISTANCE**  
PACT can help the child and their carer to know their rights, stay up to date on the offender's release and seek compensation if needed.

**A NOT-FOR-PROFIT WITH MORE THAN 35 YEARS' EXPERIENCE, PACT IS COMMITTED TO IMPARTIALLY SUPPORTING VICTIMS AND WITNESSES WHO HAVE TO GIVE EVIDENCE. HERE'S HOW WE MAKE AN IMPACT:**



 **EDUCATE & INFORM**  
We reduce the fear of giving evidence by helping children and their families understand the complex legal system in a way they can understand.

 **MORAL SUPPORT**  
We support children as they prepare to give evidence and are by their side when they view their initial police statement - and later when they give evidence - to help them stay calm, attentive and focussed.

 **EMPOWER**  
We build confidence and self-belief so children discover their strength and resilience. We empower them to find their voice and support their right to be heard without fear.

