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HELL'S ANGEL



"She has a very deliberate way of how she introduces herself. It's, 'hi, I'm Ann. The only reason I'm in your life is because something really horrible has happened.'" Jonelle Fraser, Margaret River resident

"She truly understands where people are at with their grief and with their trauma and that's such a deep thing to experience." Rosie Batty, former Australian of the Year.

24 years ago, Dr Ann O'Neill was the victim of shocking family violence. Her estranged husband murdered their two small children and left her permanently disabled.

Today, the Perth woman has rebuilt her life to become one of Australia's foremost trauma recovery experts, helping others who have lived through terrible tragedies.



In the years after her loss, Ann completed a PhD and founded Angelhands, a not-for-profit that supports victims of trauma.

Former Australian of the Year, Rosie Batty, whose son Luke was murdered by his father, is one of the many people Ann has helped.

“She’s been a beacon of light in some of my darkest hours,” Rosie says.

With Western Australia reeling from a succession of family mass murders, Ann’s hard-won wisdom about how to carry on in the face of sadness and grief has been vital in communities like Margaret River where seven people died this year in a murder-suicide.

And as Australian Story reveals, Ann is not only going from strength to strength professionally, but personally as well.

“How do you put a quantum on the joy of a little person in your world?” Ann says.

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