

Southwest

## Child sex abuse survivor Brendan Hunt urges other victims to speak out about abuse

🕒 February 24, 2016 12:00am

📁 Anna Hitchings Liverpool Leader



Brendan Hunt says he wishes he spoke up much earlier. Pictures: Justin Sanson

CHILD sex abuse survivor Brendan Hunt is encouraging other abuse victims not to stay silent.

Now 27, Mr Hunt was 14 when he became [a victim of paedophile Greg Druery](#), his coach at Bankstown Sports Baseball club in 2003.

He said he never breathed a word of the abuse, not even to his wife Mandy, until he heard [Druery had been arrested](#) on 17 July 2014 and decided to call the police.

"I had a lot of guilt once he did get arrested, because at the time (of the abuse) I thought I was the only victim," Mr Hunt, who is now in the navy, said.



Brendan only told his wife Mandy about the abuse after Druery was arrested.

“If it’s happening to you, there are probably other victims, or there are going to be other victims, that you could prevent.”

He also stressed the importance of making victims aware they can remain anonymous and their names would never be released publicly.

“That was the one thing that was holding me back,” he said, adding at the time he feared being bullied at school if other students found out he had been abused.

Greg Druery, 51, was convicted of sexually abusing eight boys between 1992 and 2014.

He was sentenced to 22 and a half years behind bars, with a non parole period of 16 and a half years at Parramatta District Court on Friday.

Mr Hunt made the decision to be identified publicly to urge other survivors of sexual abuse to call police or tell someone, as he did not.

“I feel guilty for the other victims ... If I had spoken up, I could have prevented it,” he said.

He said he had received invaluable support and help from the Survivors and Mates Support Network ([SAMSAN](#)), a unique organisation focused on male victims of abuse.

SAMSN spokesman Shane McNamara said the average length of time it took men to speak out about abuse was 22 years.

“I don’t personally think that it’s that brave (speaking out),” Mr Hunt said. “At the end of the day, it’s just doing what I should have done 12 years ago.”