

KRYSTAL BARTER

Leading Women's Health Activist, Social Entrepreneur, Author



Krystal Barter is a leading women's health activist, speaker, author, wife and proud mother-of-three.

Considered one of Australia's most influential philanthropists, Krystal has been hailed Australia's 'Angelina Jolie'. Both carrying the faulty BRCA1 gene, Krystal shares the Oscar-winner's influence and star-pulling power and is often called upon as a leading global women's health expert and spokesperson on policy and patient engagement, including digital and campaign activations.

As a young woman, Krystal watched on as every single female member of her family was diagnosed with breast or ovarian cancer at a shockingly young age. Krystal soon discovered that her family's cancer history was not by chance, but due to a gene fault called BRCA1, which predisposes the carrier to an increased risk of certain cancers.

At only 25 years of age, Krystal elected to have a preventative double mastectomy after making the difficult decision to reduce her risk of cancer, and become the first woman in her family to be in control of her risk. Realising there was nowhere she could find support for women with at an increased risk of breast and ovarian cancer, Krystal started a unique organisation called **Pink Hope** from her hospital bed.

Krystal became one of the first Australian women to publicly share her story on national television program, 60 Minutes and quickly became the voice and face of Australia's preventative health movement – catching the eye Hollywood actress Angelina Jolie herself, who insisted on meeting Krystal after having her own preventative surgery.



Since 2009, Pink Hope has grown from a small community to a global preventative health movement, helping millions of families world-wide, know their risk and change their future.

Over the last few years Krystal has experienced multiple surgeries and health surprises, including oophorectomy, hysterectomy and prolapse reconstruction surgery causing her to reconsider her position on women's health more broadly, and ignite her desire to challenge the status quo when it comes to the state of healthcare for women not only in Australia but the world.

Krystal explains, *"While I might look fine, by the time I was 34 I had lost every organ that defines you as a woman. An incredibly confronting position. This has triggered for me a really intense desire to be the voice for women, who often feel they don't have a voice because of their position, as a woman, a mother, or a busy working woman."*

"Advocacy is no longer enough. There are so many areas of female health that need addressing. From equitable access, to breast density, to insurance discrimination to mainstreaming of genetic testing; we have a long way to go and I am committed to paving the way for women globally."

Krystal continues to be at the forefront of preventative health, working collaboratively with healthcare providers, government, media and patients to develop innovative tools and programs ensuring every woman and her family is empowered to take control of their health. Just like she did.

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