

Abby... I know that there is nothing wrong with me, I am beautiful just the way I am hair or no hair!

I am a 12 year old girl who lives in Tasmania with her mum, dad, 2 brothers and 1 sister.

I have now had Alopecia for 4 years. It all started as a couple of little spots of hair going missing, I wasn't sure what was happening, and it grew back. Nearly a year later it all happened again same spots of hair missing just a little bit bigger. It took me longer to grow it back but it did. Then it started falling out in a lot more places and mum did her best to cover it with the remaining hair I had but it got to the point that I lost too much that mum bought hair extensions to cover the bald spots. To look at me you wouldn't have know I had hair missing but at home we all knew and couldn't understand why this was happening.



I spent a lot of nights wondering why me, what's wrong with me! I couldn't understand why this happened and the thought of being judged by people upset me terribly.

I then got a referral to see a dermatologist who diagnosed me with Alopecia. We had never heard of it, it was all such a whirlwind of emotions and lots of facts to get our heads around. After our initial couple of appointments things weren't getting better so he decided to start me on acetone treatment which we had to have posted from Melbourne children's hospital as they don't have it here in Tasmania.

He couldn't recommend this treatment any more highly and said there was great results, well not for me. All the hair I had left ,which was still a bit, fell out with this treatment.....I am now completely bald! We tried a few other treatments including immune therapy treatment but with no results.

This all came about near some school holidays so we looked into buying my first wig so when I went back to school I had a new hair do! Most people didn't say anything but there were a couple of kids who made my school life horrible and I didn't want to go. Mum and dad arranged a meeting with the school and told them what was happening with me and they were fantastic. I was given the option if I wanted to wear a hat as I found my wig uncomfortable . Questions were asked so mum decided to have a chat with my grade and explain to them what was happening with me. They were all so supportive and had my back!



A year later I am now in high school with my second wig which is so much better than my first, even my friends didn't recognise me and thought there was a new students at school! I have so much more confidence and pride in myself.

Being in Tassie I am limited to access Drs who specialise in this and even places to buy wigs for a 12 year old has been a challenge. But everything that gets in our way we just keep moving forward and get through it with what we can.

Amongst all the ups and downs and there has been plenty of tears shed I have some great family and friends that support me and my journey through this. I am slowly learning to embrace having no hair, and still hold onto the hope that one day it may grown back.

Being a young girl is hard enough, losing your hair on top of that has been one of the biggest challenges I have faced, and I know that there is nothing wrong with me, I am beautiful just the way I am hair or no hair!