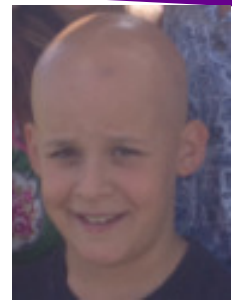


Cam O'Rourke, aged 12,.... I've developed a stronger , tougher personality.



ABOUT MY ALOPECIA

I first got AA in early 2010. It was a massive shock because it started off as just one tiny patch, and in about four weeks, it had all gone, apart from a couple of tiny patches. My mates all helped me out by shaving their heads to show support, which was awesome. At Christmas that year, it had basically grown back, apart from the tiny patch that came out at first. In February the next year, it just fell straight out again. Since then, I've been completely bald.

WHAT ARE THE BAD THINGS ABOUT ALOPECIA?

There are a few bad things about having AA. The main one is the taunts that I get on the footy field. If that happens, I just ignore them and think that they're not focused on the game if they're thinking of stuff that's meant to affect me. But I always remember that some kids my age are missing an arm or a leg and I'm just worrying about a bit of hair.

WHAT GOOD THINGS HAVE HAPPENED TO YOU AS A RESULT OF ALOPECIA?

From having alopecia, I've really developed a stronger, tougher personality and realised that even though I have alopecia, I am luckier than plenty of kids in third world countries with diseases much worse than mine. I've also met plenty of great people at the AAAF.



WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR HOBBIES?

Some of my hobbies are footy, basketball, tennis, backyard cricket, surfing, going to the beach, running, swimming and guitar. I'm also a mad west coast eagles fan.

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO DO IN THE FUTURE?

When I finish school, I want to go to uni and study journalism so I can reach my goal of becoming a sports journalist in the West Australian newspaper, covering Aussie Rules footy. I also want to travel around Australia with mates.



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