

**Melissa..... As hard as it was hearing this diagnosis, we as a family began to embrace it for what it was. No more tests, appointments, lotions and potions.**

My story began when I was 4 years old and lost all my hair in just over a week. After many doctors appointments and tests my parents took me to a Dermatologist in Sydney who specialised in Alopecia. He listened about my case and examined me and pointed out the pitting in my finger and toe nails and concluded that I had Alopecia Universalis and told us that the chance of my hair ever growing back was one in a thousand. That is where my real journey began. As hard as it was hearing this diagnosis, we as a family began to embrace it for what it was. No more tests, appointments, lotions and potions - and it was a correct diagnosis as 28 years later - my hair has never grown back.



My parents felt that it was extremely important for me to have a suction human hair wig. To be able to have confidence and participate in activities just like the other kids and not to look like an unfortunate child undergoing chemotherapy. The hardest part for my parents was that I kept growing out of my wigs.

Today - 28 years on, my breathable suction on human hair wig still means everything to me. I work part-time as a Dispensary Technician in a busy pharmacy. I think that having Alopecia makes me more empathetic to customers and others with life changing and difficult illnesses and situations that I see at work and outside. I am married and have two beautiful bubs - a daughter Adeline - 2 and a half years, and a son Levi - 11 months. My family sees me at home without my wig on - and when I put it on its just like part of getting dressed.

For many years I played bass guitar in a "rock" band and enjoyed being on stage. I regularly get my eyebrows tattoo'd on. I enjoy swimming, camping and going to the beach.

I openly talk to people about having Alopecia - if it comes up - as it is who I am - and probably always will be.