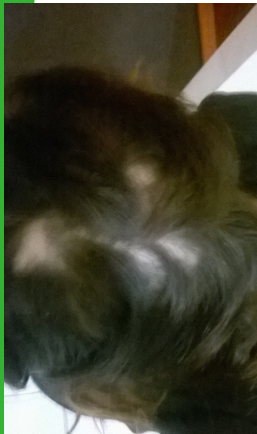
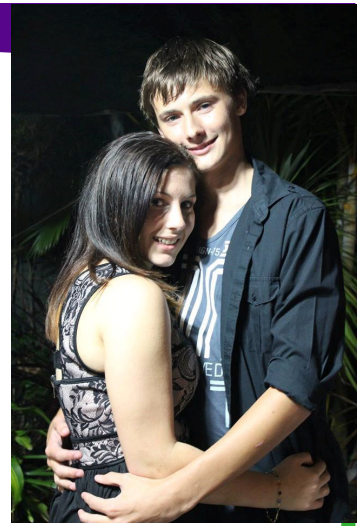


Victoria.....Nobody with Alopecia is alone and its nothing to be ashamed of.

Hi, my name is Victoria and I was born in 1998. There is a history of Alopecia in my family. I was diagnosed with alopecia when I was 6 years old and this is my story.

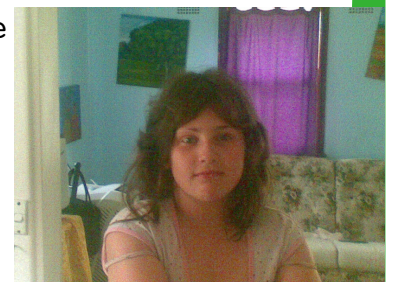
My Alopecia started after I turned 6. I was at the bus stop with my mother when she was playing with my hair and noticed two small bald patches, one at the front and one at the back of my head. Over months they started getting bigger so we went to see a dermatologist who diagnosed me with having alopecia and I was terrified when I saw the pictures of what my hair could potentially end up looking like. I thought I was safe when the two patches started growing back, but then others patches started coming up and it just continued to get worse over the years.



I was bullied so badly by my brother at home and then by all the kids at school which made it a lot worse because Alopecia can be linked to stress . The kids used to come up to me with sick jokes and would spread rumors like "she has cancer", "she was rude to her mum, so she tied Victoria down to a chair and shaved parts of her hair off" or "she tried to run from her mother, so her mother ripped her hair out".

By the time I was 10 years old I had two patches, the size of footballs on each side of my head with more patches running down the middle of my scalp. I also started losing my eyelashes, eyebrow and patches of body hair. I had to wear hats and bandanas everywhere because I was so ashamed of myself and got into countless argument with substitute teachers who didn't know about my condition and tried to force me to remove my hat. It brought me into tears every time.

I tried herbal tablets, steroid injections and the most common one that people who don't go through alopecia say "just stop stressing". I hit 11 and I thought everything was looking up as my alopecia finally cleared up. My hair looked ratty and scruffy but there were no more patches and when people tried to tease me, I became more resilient and I was able to laugh in their faces because they could no longer hurt me, no matter how hard they tried.



In year 6 of school we moved to Nowra, NSW, starting fresh and nobody knew about my old condition. A few months in I found another patch. instantly I felt crushed, like a rock had just been put on my shoulders and all I could do was cry.

I am now in year 10 and I'm turning 16. My Alopecia is still around, its not to bad as it used to be but its still noticeable when my hair moves in the breeze so I wear a beanie these days and I'm still missing body hair.

Nobody with Alopecia is alone and its nothing to be ashamed of. Its defined me as the strong girl I am today and I know that in the end I will hold my head high because there is nothing wrong with me or anyone else who suffers from Alopecia.