Australia Alopecia Areata Foundation Inc.

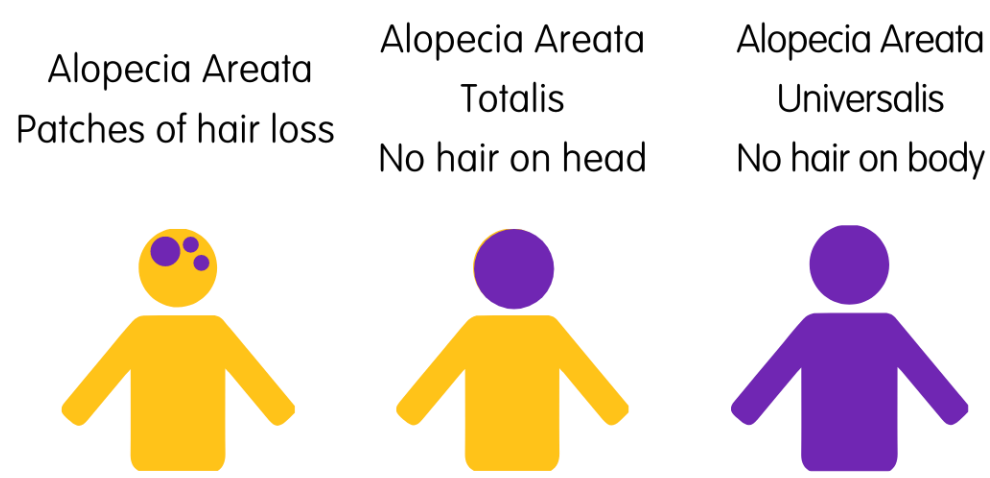
Alopecia Areata ..... it's life changing

Imagine waking up and discovering you have suddenly lost a large patch of hair.
Imagine sitting with your child and discovering they are going bald.

This is Alopecia Areata.

Alopecia Facts

- It's an autoimmune condition that causes hair loss on the scalp and body.
- Over 2% of people in Australia will experience the condition – that's more than half a million people!
- It is more common than insulin-dependent diabetes or rheumatoid arthritis.
- It ranges from small patches to loss of all hair on the entire body.
- It can occur very suddenly and without warning.
- There is no cure and currently no acceptable treatment.
- The condition can occur in any gender, age, or ethnicity.
- It most commonly presents during childhood.



AAAF Mission

- ❖ Provide support to people living with Alopecia Areata and their families
- ❖ Champion awareness of Alopecia Areata
- ❖ Fund research into a cure or acceptable treatment

Our Programs and Services

Donate Hair
AAAF collect hair donations and provide them to specialist wig makers. Funds raised go to support our Wigs For Kids program, so hair donation helps kids with Alopecia Areata twice!

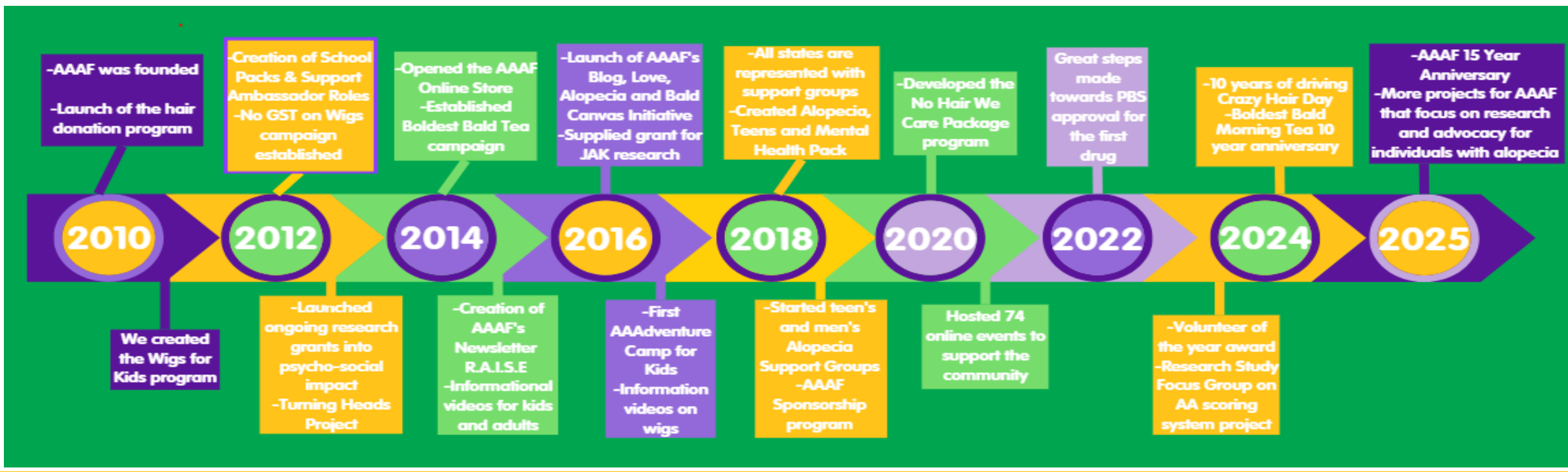
Wigs for Kids
AAAF launched our Wigs For Kids Program in 2012. This program provides financial grants to help families with the costs of wigs. AAAF have provided over $92,000 in grants.

Events
Events are an important part of what AAAF do. Many provide direct support for our community, such as our annual camp for kids, our Open Days, or Support Group events. Other events focus on championing awareness, such as Crazy Hair Days at schools, Boldest Bald Brunches in workplaces, and annual Alopecia Areata Awareness Week in November.

Other:

- **Suicide watch** –look for warning signs and connect with appropriate supports
- **Social Forums** –events and online tools to provide peer support
- **Medical Forums** –dermatologists, hair education bodies, psychologists and trichologists
- **Creating Awareness** – social and media campaigns, medical exhibitions, specialist conferences
- **Invest in research** - To date, AAAF have invested more than $300,000 in medical and psychological research.
- **School visits** –presentations to schools and community groups

What we have achieved so far…….



We need your help!

We want to continue our support to the community and there is so much more we can do. Together, with your support we can do that.

How can you help?

Support the AAAF by sponsoring our foundation. Your support will go towards;

Services

- ✓ Scale regional Support Ambassador networks across Australia.
- ✓ Continue all services run by AAAF
- ✓ Roll out specialised youth mental health frameworks
- ✓ Expand the nationwide "No Hair We Care" logistics.
- ✓ Maintain core community services with strict quality audits.

Advocacy

- ✓ **L**everage population databases for government policy change.
- ✓ Lobby for PBS listing of TGA Alopecia Areata Drugs
- ✓ Campaign to eliminate GST on medical wigs.

Events

- ✓ Annual children's camp
- ✓ Exhibit at major medical and dermatology symposiums.
- ✓ Host inclusive community catch-ups, pizza nights, house visits, school visits and open-days.

Testimonials

We would like to thank the Australia Alopecia Areata Foundation for the support they have given ... to help us as a family explain and normalise Sarah's alopecia for her and our community. Sarah now feels more confident talking about her patches and the people around us are now more knowledgeable about Alopecia Areata.... The support we have received has made this first year of Alopecia Areata a little easier for us, so thank you AAAF!" – Toni, mother of Sarah (age 6)

Alopecia Areata… It's life changing.

- It has a serious impact on self-esteem and mental health
- People with Alopecia Areata have an increased level of isolation, bullying and stigma.
- It causes depression, anxiety, self-harm and suicide.
- It affects more than just the individual – families, peers, schools and communities are also impacted by this condition.

Please contact us to start helping today.

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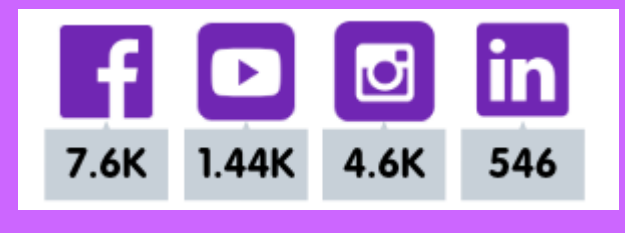
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