



PAT CRONIN
FOUNDATION

Be Wise
Parent Overview

2021

Be Wise

End the Coward Punch

The Pat Cronin Foundation

On 16 April 2016, Pat Cronin was killed by a single Coward Punch as he went to assist a mate who was being attacked. Despite not being knocked-out, the force of that Coward Punch was enough to fracture Pat's skull, causing an inoperable bleed on his brain. Two days later, Pat's parents Matt, and Robyn Cronin, made the agonising decision to turn-off his life support system.

The Cronin family in partnership with members of the broader community, established the Pat Cronin Foundation in 2016 to prevent Coward Punch attacks and honour Pat.

The Coward Punch

Coward Punch attacks generally occur in social settings. In Australia between 2000-2016, there were 127 one-punch deaths. One death is too many. Australia is faced with an average of eight tragic and avoidable deaths per year from coward punches. Social violence affects the whole community – and needs us all to be part of the solution. The Foundation is committed to working together with its partners to ensure that social violence is not tolerated, and that the community will be free from the coward punch.

The Be Wise Program

The Be Wise program has been developed in consultation with teachers, psychologists, researchers, students, and parents to bring a whole of school/community approach to learning important wellbeing lessons. The Be Wise materials cover Pat's story, anger and aggression, strategies for violence prevention, and the consequences of violence.

Our materials link to the Personal and Social Capability area of the Victorian curriculum, specifically: recognition and expression of emotions, development of resilience, relationships and diversity, and conflict resolution. The Be Wise program uses Pat's story to illustrate clearly why these issues are important and gives a clear and relevant demonstration of the tragic consequences of not living sound values. Be Wise supports students to work on personal strategies to put respect, rights, and resilience ideals into action. We also ensure that teachers are aware that the emotional content of Pat's story may bring up issues for students and ask staff to be prepared to follow the school's welfare procedures if required.

The Be Wise Education approach is one of empowerment. Students who reflect on their own activity and make links between the materials and their own lives engage more and report a more effective experience in terms of what they learn and how they believe they will be able to employ the learnings in future.

Contact us through your school or at info@patcroninfoundation.org.au