



The Pat Cronin Foundation

The Pat Cronin Foundation is presenting to your child's school, as part of the school's commitment to student wellbeing. This document is intended as a guide to help you support your child if the content of the presentation is emotionally triggering.

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 community, established the Pat Cronin Foundation in 2016 to prevent Coward Punch attacks and to honour Pat.

The Coward Punch

Coward Punch attacks generally occur in social settings. In Australia between 2000-2019 there were 172 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 Presentation

The Be Wise presentation has been developed in consultation with teachers, psychologists, researchers, students, and parents to bring a whole school/community approach to learning important wellbeing lessons. It covers 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 presentation uses Pat's story to illustrate clearly why these issues are important and gives a clear and relevant demonstration of the tragic consequences of unwise decisions. The Pat Cronin Foundation supports students, community, and sporting groups to work on personal strategies to put respect, rights, and resilience ideals into action.

Our presentation shares Pat's story, including challenging imagery. We ensure that teachers and adults are aware that the emotional content of Pat's story may emotionally impact students and young people and recommend relevant support staff attend the presentation and follow the appropriate welfare procedures if required. Students are notified prior to the presentation of the emotional content that will be shared.

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The Be Wise Education approach is one of empowerment. Attendees 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.

Support for students

- Parents or another trusted adult
- School welfare Leaders/Psychologist/School Nurse etc
- Family GP

Useful links

Kids Helpline: www.kidshelpline.com.au
Beyond Blue: www.beyondblue.org.au
Headspace: www.headspace.org.au