

# Be Wise Education Program



**PAT CRONIN  
FOUNDATION**

## Our Story

While out with his mates in April 2016, 19 year old Pat was Coward Punched in the back of the head while assisting a friend in danger, resulting in a skull fracture. Two days later, his family tragically had to make the agonising decision to turn off his life support. This tragedy will affect the Cronin family, their friends and the wider community forever.

The Pat Cronin Foundation believe that social violence does not have to remain a part of Australia's culture, rather that it is something that is preventable.

## Our Program's Vision

Our Be Wise Education Program uses Pat's story to show students the dangers of even a single coward punch. This will help them to reflect on their own attitudes and beliefs about violence and most importantly empower them to be part of a change in culture, to one that does not accept violence and works together to 'End the Coward Punch.'

Pat's story and the 'Be Wise' materials and program have been designed to integrate smoothly into the F-10 Personal and Social Capability topics of the Curriculum. Pat's story and the issues raised offer students a clear way to discuss issues of conflict, anger and emotions and make it easy for teachers to clearly observe the students meeting key curriculum indicators.



## Our Program Options

There are three components in the Be Wise Education Program which can stand alone or build together for a whole of school approach:

### Be Wise Auditorium Presentation

The Be Wise auditorium presentation is delivered by a Pat Cronin Foundation presenter. During the thought provoking, interactive presentation we share Pat's story and talk about the consequences for both victims and offenders.

We also provide strategies to empower students to be a part of positive change to 'End the Coward Punch.'

**Time:** To suit a class lesson.

### Be Wise Classroom Materials

Developed in partnership with the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority, the Be Wise classroom program for senior students is delivered by teachers. We provide a resource kit including teachers notes, PowerPoint presentation, video and student workbook.

Feedback from Principals and teachers has been very positive, importantly reporting high levels of student engagement.

**Time:** Flexible to suit lesson plans.

### Pat's Story Documentary

Our professionally filmed 35-minute documentary is suitable for screening to all students, but if held in an evening can involve parents, teachers and other community members. Having everyone on the same page is key to reinforce and maintain the message.

An additional supplementary session including a Q and A can also be arranged.

**Time:** 1 hour including Q and A.



## TEACHERS WORDS OF SUPPORT

*"The Be Wise presentation was engaging, thoughtful and incredibly powerful and generated conversations in the school-yard and the staff room. Our Year 11 students left the Be Wise presentation with a greater understanding of the consequences of a single coward punch and with strategies of how they can help end the violence."*

– **Teacher, Albert Park College.**

*"The frankness about the impacts of violence facilitates a powerful lesson for students. The raw emotion shown throughout the presentation makes the devastating impact of a coward punch very clear."* – **Teacher, Grovedale College.**

*"This was the first Be Wise Presentation in our school for Years 9 and 10. Students were engaged and I feel that they learnt so much from Pat's story. The Pat Cronin Foundation is a credit to the community, and I would highly recommend every school to educate all students on the dangers of the coward punch, and making better choices."*

– **Teacher, Lalor Secondary College.**

*"The Be Wise Presentation is incredibly powerful, very moving for students and staff and a great inspiration against any form of social violence. The message that violence is so avoidable, yet so disastrous for everybody involved is integral for teenagers. I highly recommend this presentation to all schools!"* – **Teacher, Williamstown High School.**

## Working With Your School to Meet Your Needs

Our programs can be adapted to suit your school's needs and age groups. Our experienced presenters bring a wealth of knowledge and passion for our message to 'End the Coward Punch.'

## Making a Booking

To make a booking, enquire on prices and find out more information on how the Pat Cronin Foundation can work with your school, please send an enquiry to us at:

[education@patcroninfoundation.org.au](mailto:education@patcroninfoundation.org.au)



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