

Townsville Bulletin

Humble dad leads fight to cure cancer

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Doctors were constantly amazed by the tiny Townsville girl's determination.

But you only have to meet her father, Ren Pedersen, to see where this stubborn will to fight came from.

The Deeragun man has been nominated for a Pride of Australia medal for his work helping kids fight brain cancer.

- [MAKE A PRIDE OF AUSTRALIA MEDAL NOMINATION](#)

Just months before Amy's death, Mr Pedersen started a fully independent branch of [The Cure Starts Now](#) in Australia.

"I am burning the candle at both ends (but) I promised Amy I would never give up," he said.

It was the week before Christmas 2007 when, at just seven, Amy was diagnosed with a brain tumour.

"Amy left this world in March 2009, 16 months later, aged only nine," he said.

"Words cannot describe the utter resilience and strength of character our girl had.

"She was near top in everything she did: school, sport, ballet, singing (but) this ironically was transformed by the deadliest cancer known to man: brain stem glioma."

The Townsville father has already donated \$500,000 to the cause but said he was embarrassed by the Pride of Australia nomination.

For him the greatest success was in the numerous new medical initiatives developed in the 18 months since his charity started, which he hoped would lead to less fear among doctors.

"Doctors shy away from treatment because they consider it career suicide," he said.

"The prognosis is so bad that the success rate is virtually nil (and) treatment has gone nowhere since 1970."

Pride of Australia winners will be presented with a sterling silver medal at a ceremony in September.

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