



## Grieving father searches for brain cancer cure after losing 9yo daughter

- Jorja Orreal
- From: The Courier-Mail
- June 03, 2010 7:28PM



DEDICATED: Ren Pedersen and (inset) his daughter Amy, who died of a brain cancer. Picture: Cameron Laird  
 Source: The Courier-Mail

**TOWNSVILLE'S Ren Pedersen, 39, lost his nine-year-old daughter Amy in March last year to a deadly brain stem tumour.**

Since then the small business owner has launched the Australian chapter of The Cure Starts Now Foundation and dedicated his life to those struggling with the "worst of all cancers" - pediatric brain cancer.

"I know the ramifications of the disease - no one can really comprehend how much these kids suffer, so if I could devote 24 hours a day to it I would," he said. "I'm trying to turn my bad situation into something good for other families who are affected by the illness by raising awareness of the organisation, and raising funds for more research into a cure."

In Australia, The Cure Starts Now Foundation has raised more than \$50,000 since kicking off less than a year ago and it hopes to raise \$100,000 by the end of the year.

"The treatment for these tumours has hardly progressed since the 1970s and I am really trying to do something about that," Mr Pedersen said.

Townsville resident Alexia Holzinger said Mr Pedersen was "an inspiration to us all".

"(He shows) in the face of adversity some good can come of it," she said.

But Mr Pedersen said he was "quite embarrassed" about his Pride of Australia nomination because he was just "doing what any other parent would do".

To nominate someone for a Pride of Australia Medal visit [www.couriermail.com.au/prideofaustralia](http://www.couriermail.com.au/prideofaustralia)  
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