

Transcript - Tracey Ether

Tracey Ether discusses the lose of her daughter due to skin cancer and her battle.

Tracey Ether:

The first time Amanda was diagnosed with melanoma she had the mole removed and was told that it was all clear. She had another appointment with her normal skin specialist who decided it needed to have more removed again, and again she was given the all clear. However, it did come back and came back quite quickly and quite aggressively.

My name is Tracey. I lost my daughter to melanoma skin cancer. Her name was Amanda she was twenty-five and she passed away in 2007 from skin cancer (holds up a photo of Amanda). It's not just that she died, but that it was absolutely horrific the pain she went through. And having to watch and be totally helpless, and her husband feeling the same, totally helpless, nothing he could do.

He was saying at one stage he could go out and get the bread and butter for the household but he couldn't fix her, we couldn't fix her. Truthfully we thought she would be okay just something you go through and the doctors would fix it, and she would get better. But in Amanda's case absolutely not.

Some of the work I'm doing, I've set up a foundation Melanoma Awareness Foundation. And some of the work I do it just about getting out there and telling Amanda's story, making people aware. Cause when we first went through the story or her journey with melanoma, we didn't realize that people die from melanoma and that is was such a deadly disease.

Right up to the last couple of weeks when Amanda passed away I was down in Melbourne trying to get her into a clinic, not realizing then how hopeless it was, because of how far it had gone. We always believed the hope that she would get better, that she would be okay, but in her case she wasn't.

Something I would like to say to the young kids about preventing sun burn or skin cancer. Is Amanda, one of her messages was people believe that it won't happen to you, but it does, and not just obviously to Amanda, but to a lot of people.

With doing the work I am doing I have come across so many similar stories where people have developed melanoma and thought they would be okay. Or they'd go into remission and think they would be okay, believing that everything is okay and they would get better. But unfortunately it came back and does come back for most people and subsequently can die.

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