

James' story

One evening in October 2006 James Macready-Bryan went into the city with a friend to visit a club where another friend was a DJ. It was early, about 9.30. It had been a good day – his twentieth birthday, his Old Boys' football club presentation dinner, with the weekend to come before a return to his Arts/Law studies at Monash.

But that night things did not go according to plan. A casual comment, and the offence it caused to a group of youths triggered a series of events that now leaves James totally and permanently disabled.

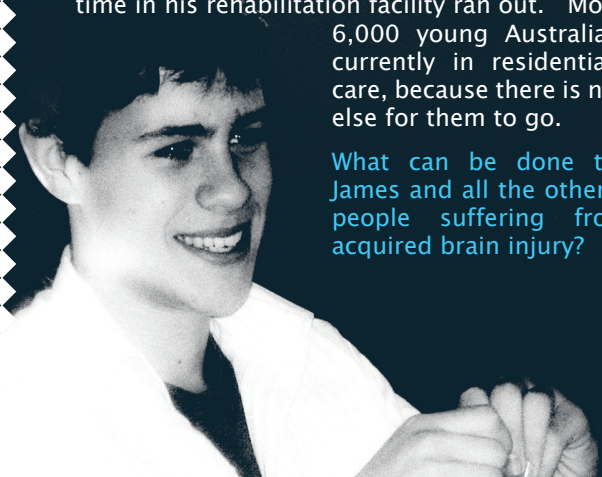
There was an argument, an attack and then a knock-out punch that sent his head slamming into the pavement, causing total, permanent and catastrophic brain injury. The sporty, life-loving student is now housed in a young people's residential facility where he requires 24-hour care. He cannot move or speak and is fed through a tube.

What happens to a 27-year-old acquired brain injury sufferer like James Macready-Bryan? Who looks after him? Who takes responsibility for his care? Where does he go?

Because James was injured by a fist, and not by a car or at work, he is ineligible for many of the services available to other accident victims. He is now a low-income disability pensioner who has to pay for his prescriptions, and his family is left to fund the cost of the therapies vital to maximise his chances of recovery.

But James is one of the lucky ones, because he did not have to go into aged care when the allocated time in his rehabilitation facility ran out. More than 6,000 young Australians are currently in residential aged care, because there is nowhere else for them to go.

What can be done to help James and all the other young people suffering from an acquired brain injury?



The James Macready-Bryan Foundation

cannot continue its work
and realise its goals
without your help



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The James Macready-Bryan Foundation

The James Macready-Bryan Foundation was set up in February 2007 to provide financial support for care and rehabilitation and a public voice for young sufferers of acquired brain injury (ABI) and their families.

The Foundation is dedicated to addressing current inadequacies in the medical, financial, political and social services systems, which save the lives of these young people but then fail to support them on an ongoing basis.

Fundraising provides vital support for additional equipment, services and therapies for young people with ABI, whether at home or in care.

The Foundation's advocacy role helps to raise public awareness of the needs of young ABI sufferers and campaign for increased and appropriately directed state and federal funding for their care. This includes the development of age-appropriate residential facilities.

In addition, the Foundation is liaising with other organisations working in the sector to establish a common voice for the many young people with ABI who, often literally, cannot speak for themselves and to work towards the best possible health care outcomes.



Professor Andrew Kaye, James Stewart Professor of Surgery at the University of Melbourne and Head of the Department of Neurosurgery at the Royal Melbourne Hospital, is the Patron of the Foundation.

An affiliated young people's group – **Step Back Think** – was formed in 2008 by James Macready-Bryan's peers to focus youth attention on the long-term consequences that can result from alcohol-fuelled aggression.

What we do

We work on two fronts: raising money, which we can then allocate to those who need it; and raising public awareness, not just of the need for the assistance we provide, but also of the tragedy of ABI and the life-long damage that can be inflicted by senseless violence.

The JMB Foundation's primary goal is to provide financial support for care and services to individuals and their families. This takes many forms, from funding for home modifications to contributing towards the cost of one-on-one care, remedial therapy, respite care, equipment or participation in community access activities.

This funding is only possible with the generous support of our donors. Donations are the Foundation's sole source of income and the money we raise is made available to approved applicants through a twice-yearly applications process. Applications are accepted from anywhere in Australia and are received until 30 April and 31 October each year. In its first three years this funding program provided almost \$300,000 in grants to support young Australians living with an ABI, making a genuine difference to their care, comfort and quality of life.

For more information about applications for funding, please visit our website – www.jmbfoundation.org.au/applications

The Foundation also has a focus on raising awareness of the plight of ABI sufferers – in particular those whose injury is the result of a violent assault – with the aim of preventing such injuries from occurring in the first place. Our close associates, Step Back Think, assist us in getting the message through to at-risk age groups about the dangers of mindless, aggressive and/or alcohol-fuelled violence, and our advocacy role helps to raise public awareness of the needs of young people with ABI.

With the generous support of our donors, the JMB Foundation can continue to provide the funding that makes such a difference to the lives of the people we help. We aim to build our fundraising to enable us to expand our grants program, so that in the future we can give even more financial assistance to a greater number of young men and women with an ABI, and help to improve life for them, their carers and their families.

If you would like to know more about JMB Foundation, please email info@jmbfoundation.org.au

How can you help?

The James Macready-Bryan Foundation cannot continue its work and realise its goals without your help.

Donations can be made via the website: www.jmbfoundation.org.au

or by using the form below.

All gifts of \$2 or more are fully tax deductible.

I would like to make a donation of:

☐ \$20 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$200 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$1,000

Other amount: \$_____

☐ Please find my cheque to "The James Macready-Bryan Foundation" enclosed

OR

☐ Please make a one-off debit of \$_____ to my credit card*

☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard

*Please note that we are only able to accept Visa and Mastercard.

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Thank you for your generosity.
Your donation will make a difference.

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