

# **PBF Australia**

## **Chairman's Report for 2007/08**

The 2007/08 financial year saw PBF Australia continue to build financial strength, develop and refine our governance and compliance needs while reinforcing our brand values. As a holder of an Australian Financial Services License, we have ensured that at all times we have the ability to meet the financial and service needs of our stakeholders.

One of PBF's key business objectives is to educate the community about the importance of being safe at work and during play to avoid becoming a victim to spinal cord injury. Over the last year, PBF have developed many relationships within corporate Australia, schools and membership groups to encourage safe behaviour in all areas of life, especially on the roads, in and around aquatic environments and in the workplace.

In 2007/08, our team of "wheelies" conducted approximately 500 sessions in all areas of Australia, reaching an impressive 15,000 people through our various injury prevention programs. This was a significant increase over the previous year and demonstrates the strong desire of organisations to invest more in safety and learn about the direct affects of spinal cord injuries.

PBF is committed to further developing its injury prevention programs in the coming year but is constrained by limited funding. Recent statistics show that Western Australia has the highest rate of spinal cord injuries in the country, so there is no doubt that education and prevention should be an important strategy. We call on governments to help arrest this disturbing trend by investing more in prevention programs thereby allowing "not-for-profit" organisations, such as PBF, to do more.

It is due to the continued support of our members that these operations will continue to exist. Families, individuals and corporations join PBF to be eligible for a \$100,000 benefit should they sustain a permanent spinal cord injury. The late founder of PBF Australia, internationally acclaimed spinal surgeon, Sir George Bedbrook, knew that while this was not the answer it certainly offered support to directly benefit individuals who sustain spinal cord injuries.

We urge all Australians to support PBF, to continue to allow us to spread valuable prevention messages, and provide financial aid where needed. With your help we will continue to support research into spinal cord injury, and maybe one day help to find a cure.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all PBF staff for their time and efforts over the past year. The enthusiasm of all of our staff, including office staff and presenters, contributes to making this wonderful organisation, achieve the goals and mission put in place by Sir George Bedbrook nearly 25 years ago. I look forward to continuing this work in the 08/09 year, and celebrating the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this organisation.

Tony Carter  
Chairman