

MEDIA RELEASE

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* *For immediate release*

Kalgoorlie residents urged to make take safety seriously

This week Kalgoorlie is be host to two gentlemen who know the consequences of bad decisions first hand.

As part of a sponsorship between BHP Nickel West and the Paraplegic Benefit Fund (PBF) Anton Zappelli and Justin Lunn have traveled to the mining town to present the award winning **PBFPREVENTION** programs to students and workers alike.

Anton, a former Kalgoorlie resident, was just 17 years old when a road crash near Ora Banda left him to spend the rest of his life in a wheelchair.

Justin decision to go water skiing in shallow unlicensed water left him as a quadriplegic.

The two gentlemen will be speaking to the students and workers about the impact that split second decisions may have on the rest of their lives.

‘I always lived my life to the extreme, I knew about safety but outside of work I didn’t even consider the basics,’ Justin says.

“I didn’t value my personal safety- everything was a bit of fun especially when I was with my friends,” Justin says.

PBF, a national not-for-profit organisation, aims to reduce spinal cord injury and enhance the lives of those already having sustained the injury.

The trip was possible thanks to BHP Nickel West, a company committed to providing safe operations where employees work free of injury and illness. BHP ensures their staff is equipped with the skills to make safe decisions when going about day to day decisions, both at work and at home.

“This initiative to bring the PBF safety message to the Kalgoorlie community should be commended,” Warrick Welsh, PBF CEO says.

“It certainly demonstrates that the organisation is fully committed to making safety a core value in their employees’ lives,” Warrick says.

PBF is a member based organisation. All members pay a small annual fee to be eligible to claim the \$100,000 member benefit if they are to sustain a permanent spinal cord injury.

For more information on PBF please visit www.pbf.asn.au

To arrange an interview with Justin or Anton please call Cristin Plath on (08) 9443 1777 or email cplath@pbf.asn.au