



Membership
Injury Prevention

MEDIA RELEASE

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WA not-for-profit gifts quadriplegic \$100,000

BEACONSFIELD resident Glenn Neville has been given a huge gift following a tragic accident that left him a quadriplegic.

National not-for-profit organisation, the Paraplegic Benefit Fund Australia (PBF), gifted Glenn \$100,000 recently to help pay for some of the enormous costs he faces during the next couple of years.

Glenn, 26, broke his neck in March after tripping over a sandbank in Cottesloe Beach and hitting the bottom.

The accident left him paralysed from the chest down and devastated his family, especially his father Terry, who is a paraplegic.

PBF Australia was able to gift Glenn the \$100,000 discretionary member benefit as he was a member of PBF at the time of his accident.

The Osborne Park-based organisation was set up by WA spinal surgeon, the late Sir George Bedbrook, who was frustrated by the lack of financial support available for his patients.

Rather than making a donation to PBF, you become a member. If any member then sustains a permanent spinal cord injury, they are eligible to claim a \$100,000 benefit within the first few weeks.

PBF now has 70,000 members, including 400 corporate members.

It uses member revenue to fund its injury prevention programs, which aim to reduce the number of serious injuries and deaths on the road, in the workplace and in the aquatic environment.

It also funds a gifting program, which helps buy equipment for people with spinal cord injuries to enable them to have more independence and freedom.

Glenn, who is originally from Esperance, said the benefit would make a huge difference to his life and would allow him to pay for things like modifications to his home and other rehabilitation and medical costs.

"I'm so glad that Mum made me a member. It has been a huge help to know that there is some money in the bank to help me get back on track while I'm in rehab and can't work," Glenn said.

At the time of his accident, Glenn was working as a carpenter and said he would now need to reconsider his employment options and undergo training in another area.

Garden Office Park, 355 Scarborough Beach Rd, Osborne Park WA 6916
Ph: (08) 9443 1777 Fax: (08) 9443 1788
www.pbf.asn.au

PBF CEO Warrick Welsh said the organisation was glad it could help Glenn and his family.

“Unfortunately, those most likely to sustain this injury are young men aged 15 to 34 years, and 70 per cent of all people who suffer a spinal cord injury receive no compensation or insurance,” Warrick said.

“PBF offers a unique way of helping people who suffer this life-changing injury and I urge all people, especially those with kids in the high risk age group, to consider PBF membership.”

For more information on PBF or to arrange an interview with Glenn or Warrick, call Tamara Akers on 9443 1777 or 0424 508 781.

PIC CAPTION: Glenn Neville receives his \$100,000 gift from PBF CEO Warrick Welsh.

Fast facts about spinal cord injury

- 49 per cent of all spinal cord injuries in Australia happen in road-related crashes.
- The main risk factors attributed to vehicle-related spinal cord injuries are speeding and loss of control, not wearing seatbelts, alcohol and driver fatigue.
- 29 per cent are the result of falls and nine per cent happen due to diving and surfing accidents.
- Those most likely to sustain the injury are young men aged 15 to 34 years.
- Males are four and a half times more likely than females to suffer a spinal cord injury.
- Almost one-quarter of spinal cord injuries happen while working.
- Lifetime support for a paraplegic is estimated to be about \$2.85 million and double that for a quadriplegic.

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