

MEDIA RELEASE

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* *For immediate release*

WA not-for-profit gifts young footballer \$100,000

MOSMAN Park footballer Scott Joyce will receive a huge gift this week following a tragic accident that left him a quadriplegic.

Not-for-profit organisation, the Paraplegic Benefit Fund Australia (PBF), will gift Scott \$100,000 to help pay for some of the enormous costs he faces during the next couple of years.

PBF ambassador and Fremantle Dockers captain Matthew Pavlich will make the presentation as part of Spinal Injury Awareness Week this week (November 12 to 18).

The presentation will occur at Shenton Park Spinal Unit at 1pm on Wednesday, November 14.

Scott, 19, suffered a serious spinal cord injury as a result of an in play incident during an amateur football game in July.

PBF Australia was able to gift Scott the \$100,000 member benefit as he was a member of PBF through the Western Australian Amateur Football League (WAAFL) at the time of his accident.

Scott is still in Shenton Park Spinal Unit undergoing rehabilitation and said he didn't know about the PBF membership when he started playing with Mosman Park Football Club.

"After I had the accident and was made aware of the membership, it was a massive relief to know that I had some support to help me through the early stages," Scott said.

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

"Unfortunately 70 per cent of people that sustain a spinal cord injury do not receive any insurance or compensation," Mr Welsh said.

"PBF was set up to help try and fill this need. Scott is the second young man we have been able to gift the \$100,000 benefit to this year and I would urge all people, especially those with kids in the high risk 15-24 year age group, to consider PBF membership."

WAAFL has been a member of PBF since 2005 and CEO Brendan Cullinan said the league recognised that the age and gender of players participating in the league were most at risk to injury during their day to day activities and therefore implemented additional cover for all players at all times.

“PBF has become an integral part of our risk management program,” Mr Cullinan said.

“The WAAFL recognises the important role that PBF plays in injury prevention programs and is fully supportive of their initiatives to educate students at schools and people in the workforce.”

PBF was set up by WA spinal surgeon, the late Sir George Bedbrook, who was frustrated by the lack of financial support available for 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.

PBF 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.

Media and photo opportunity: Scott will receive the \$100,000 benefit from PBF ambassador Matthew Pavlich at 1pm on Wednesday, November 14 at Shenton Park Spinal Unit.

For more information, call PBF PR Manager Tamara Akers on 9443 1777 or 0424 508 781.

Fast facts about spinal cord injury

- 49 per cent of all spinal cord injuries in Australia happen in road-related crashes.
- 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.
- The costs of the injury is exorbitant. In the first year along, it costs \$260,000 to support a paraplegic and double that for a quadriplegic.
- Lifetime support for a paraplegic is estimated to be about \$2.85 million and double that for a quadriplegic.

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