

IFAP & PBF gift 2007

This year, IFAP and the Paraplegic Benefit Fund Australia (PBF) have teamed up to help paraplegic Matt Rogers.

Each year, IFAP hosts a corporate golf day as part of its annual conference. Part of the proceeds raised from the golf day are donated to PBF to help someone through PBF's gifting program.

The gifting program aims to help someone who has sustained a spinal cord injury to attain more independence and freedom.

This year, funds raised from the golf day will help train Matt as a presenter with PBF's injury prevention program.

Matt was 20-years-old when his life was changed forever. After completing his third year study as an apprentice Aircraft Engineer, Matt and his classmates went to a pub to celebrate.

After a few hours, Matt got on a motorbike and headed home. Unfortunately, Matt failed to negotiate a corner and crashed the bike, ending up impaled on a fence.

The crash left Matt a paraplegic and with severe internal injuries.

After nine months in hospital, Matt returned to his home town in Kununurra, where he struggled for many years to come to terms with his disability.

He has now turned his life around and has returned to Perth with his wife for a new beginning.

Matt said he was looking forward to joining the PBF team, particularly the injury prevention program, which aims to reduce the number of serious injuries and deaths on the road, in the workplace and in the aquatic environment.

"If I can get one person to make the right decision after a big night out, then I will be happy," Matt said.

As part of the program, Matt will share his story with Year 10 to 12 students. He will talk about the risks, his decision and the impact it has had on his life in an effort to make them realise that their actions on the road could have serious consequences.

Matt will also be trained to deliver the workplace injury prevention program, which aims to reduce injuries and deaths in the workplace. The program is a regular inclusion in the Health and Safety Reps training at IFAP.

Matt thanked IFAP for its support and said it would help make his transition to Perth easier.

"I'm looking forward to being able to put a bit back into the community after all these years. It's an exciting time."