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MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER OF QUEENSLAND

Greetings and warm congratulations to the Spinal Injuries Association on your 50th birthday.

As someone who is also celebrating this milestone in 2010, believe me when I say that I know how it feels to turn 50!

In the Association's case, from little things big things really did grow.

From that first public meeting of people with paraplegia and quadriplegia in 1960, you've grown to become the state's peak body for people with a spinal cord injury.

While there have been name and other changes over the years, what has remained constant is your dedication to enhancing the lives of people with spinal cord injuries. From 'injury to independence' you are there for members and clients, assisting individuals with spinal cord injuries and their families to rebuild their lives.

The range of high-quality services provided by your networks throughout the State is both extensive and impressive. As well as supporting individuals with spinal cord injuries and their families, your services also extend to people experiencing the late effects of polio and sufferers of transverse myelitis.

That you have managed not only to survive, but to thrive for 50 years, has much to do with the positive and supportive culture of your organisation.

Your mission to assist in 'rebuilding lives, promoting independence and preventing injuries', is a promise that the Association delivers on daily.

Your many achievements over the past five decades is impressive. Achievements that include delivering the message on injury prevention to over a million primary and secondary students throughout the State, and the provision of more than 400,000 hours of Peer Support assistance every year.

As your local Member of Parliament and Premier, on behalf of your fellow Queenslanders, I want to express my gratitude to the Spinal Injuries Association for fifty years of dedicated and high-quality service to the community.

ANNA BLIGH MP
PREMIER OF QUEENSLAND