

50 years

Celebrating five
decades of rebuilding
lives, promoting
independence and
preventing injury

1960-2010

 Spinal Injuries
ASSOCIATION
*Empowering people for 50
years*





In the beginning: the 1960s

1960

The Paraplegics Welfare Association holds its first meeting on 9 March in Ann Street, Brisbane

The Association raises money to send Robin Tourrier, an archer with paraplegia, to the 1960 Rome Paralympics

1964

Association campaigning led to State Government funding for wheelchairs

1967

The Association forms a fundraising committee and holds a raffle that raises \$23.51

1969

Association develops its first logo

The Association's magazine *Paraview* sells for 10 cents



Long-time member Mavis Rosswell (left) with Zita Mullins who attended the Association's first meeting on 9 March 1960



ABOVE: The Association's first AGM was held at Shell House in Ann Street, Brisbane. It is now the Rothbury Hotel.



ABOVE: Ruth Read was involved with Brisbane's Junior Chamber Commerce who helped form the original Association

“Mr Reader may be paralysed from the neck down but he is not paralysed from the neck up ... Great things can be expected from this meeting.”

Dr Noble, Minister for Health and Home Affairs, speaking of Association President, George Reader, at the first meeting of the Association on 9 March 1960.



Changing times: the 1970s

BELOW: Peter Marsh was the Association's first Welfare Officer



BELOW: Members at the Association's Activity Centre



ABOVE: Bill Davies (1940-2008) was Association President in the 1970s and a long-time Director of the Spinal Injuries Unit



Bill Garsden (with wife Lee) was one of the first residents of Wheelie One when it opened in 1979

1973

First Executive Officer, David Galloway, appointed

1974

Association buys a copying business to employ members and generate income

1975

Ladies Committee founded, with Mavis Rosswell as convenor

1976

The Association opens an art gallery, Para Gallery, in West End, Brisbane

1977

Wheelie of the Year quest held
Association secures government funding to build its first group home
The Association has 422 members

1979

Association opens Wheelie One house at Ascot
Association moves into new offices at Horan Street, West End

“We must work in close liaison with organisations similar to our own.”

Bill Davies, President

Founding SEAT presenter Wayne Leo with students at Inala State School
Courtesy South West News



Coming of age: the 1980s

1981

International Year of Disabled Persons

1984

Federal Government establishes Office of Disability

1986

Accessible taxi scheme begins in Southeast Queensland

Disability Services Act passed in Queensland, which sees the beginning of the end of institutionalisation

1987

SEAT program starts

Wheelie Two and Three houses open
Community Advisory Service (now Spinal Advisory Service) established

1988

The Association's work with Expo 88 planners sees it become the first major Australian event to actively plan for access

1989

Paraplegics Welfare Association becomes the Paraplegic and Quadriplegic Association of Queensland



Santa visits the Spinal Injuries Unit in 1985



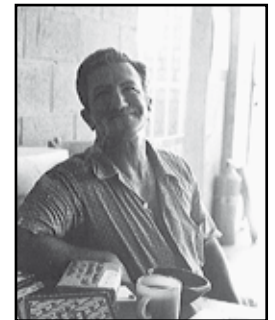
BELOW: The Paraquad van that transported members to and from the Activity Centre



Alan Piddick, one of the original employees of PQ Lifestyles (which became Intouch) at the Activity Centre



LEFT: SEAT presenter Carolyn Coomber, Family Services Minister Peter McKechnie and Rod Walters review an Expo 88 accessibility guide



ABOVE TOP: State Minister for Family Services and Welfare Housing Peter McKechnie and member Alicia Armstrong outside one of the Wheelie houses
ABOVE: Phoneability employee Herb Allen

BELOW: President Rod Walters and Transport Minister Don Lane prepare to take the first journey in an accessible Queensland taxi



“We had to bring a different focus and think of ourselves as a business, not as a charity.”
Rod Walters, President



Access and advocacy: the 1990s



ABOVE LEFT: Members celebrate Christmas circa 1993



ABOVE RIGHT: One of the first meetings of the Association's Post Polio support group, led by Christine Tilley (second from left)



ABOVE: Long-time volunteers John Corcoran and Charles Cory at Parliament House in November 1994



ABOVE: SEAT presenter Paul Bowes keeps kids in line!



BELOW: John Mayo and Brisbane Lord Mayor Jim Soorley mark Disability Awareness Week circa 1997



Phoneability employee George Dougherty

1991

Association holds its first conference, a three-day event in Townsville

1992

Townsville office opens

1993

Post Polio Support Queensland aligns with the Association

Information Services begins

1994

Community Relations Department established, led by John Mayo

Disability Discrimination Act precedent law set in action against the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre

PQ Temporary Assistance and the Equipment Loan Service established

PQ Employment Options commenced

1995

Member Networks commences

Unmet Needs Campaign is launched in Queensland with strong involvement from the Association

1996

Association buys its first building and moves to Kangaroo Point

PQ Lifestyles is formed

1997

Transverse Myelitis group formed

Association assists member set a legal precedent regarding accessible graduation action against Queensland University of Technology

1998

High support needs project starts

1999

Access Solutions commences

“The [Convention Centre] verdict is a national landmark decision.”

John Mayo



New millennium: the 2000s

2002

Association develops its first website

2004

Peer Support Program launched

Association moves into its current

Brisbane offices at Woolloongabba

New Townsville office opens

Association supports member to win

Lawson v Stadium Redevelopment

Authority to secure equitable seating at

Lang Park

2005

Association becomes the Spinal Injuries Association

Spinal Cord Injury Response (SCIR) funding introduced

Classic Wallabies become Ambassadors

Community Linking program begins

2006

The Association supports a member in her precedent law verdict against the body corporate of a Brisbane apartment building regarding equitable access

2007

The Association's advocacy helps secure \$4.8 million State Government funding program for accessible taxi transport in regional Queensland

2008

Spinal Injuries Awareness Week celebrated through inaugural Gala Dinner in Brisbane and first Cruise for a Cause in Townsville

Association receives Quality Assurance accreditation

2009

SEAT at Work launched

Peer Mentor program begins in Cairns and the Sunshine Coast

2010

SEAT presenter Wayne Leo speaks to his 250,000th student

The Association celebrates its 50th anniversary

Member Danny Stenzel (centre) carries the Olympic torch on its way to Sydney in 2000



ABOVE: Member Josh Lowe and Peer Support Officer Katie Franz



LEFT: The Jazz and Blues Festival was a major fundraising event in the early 2000s



SEAT at Work presenter Robert Spencer



ABOVE: Fraser Montgomery, Scott Stidston, Mark Henley and Queensland Governor Her Excellency Penelope Wensley celebrate the Townsville office's 5th anniversary in 2009.



ABOVE: Malakai Tava (centre) (with wife Julie and Tim and Katrina Horan) was a major driver behind the introduction of SCIR funding.



David Riley and the Governor General celebrate the Association's 50th anniversary.

“We need to continue to influence the broader community regarding including people with a disability and valuing the contributions they can make to society.”
Mark Henley, Chief Executive Officer