

Testimonials

“The students took on the importance of the prevention message; they were talking about it for days afterwards. It certainly met my objectives. We would recommend SpinChat to other schools and look forward to having speakers return.”

William Ruthven Secondary College

“I could not speak of SpinChat any more highly. From humour to frank honesty the presenter had the students captivated and engaged from start to finish.”

Cobden Technical School

“Personalisation of the presentation helped students identify the dangers and make them more realistic. Not just a statistic but an actual face to empathise and see that spinal cord injury affects anyone.”

Drouin Secondary College

“The amount of unsolicited positive feedback from this session has been outstanding. I thank our speaker for sharing his story in a way that the students could relate to. It has been especially pleasing to hear Year 12 students say they will think more carefully about the risks associated with the activities they engage in.”

Beaconhills College

SpinChat

An initiative of  **independence**
AUSTRALIA

How to book?

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\$150 per session

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SpinChat aims to raise awareness, promote prevention and educate secondary students about spinal cord injury.

The program sees young people with a spinal cord injury and in wheelchairs talk to students about life before their injury, the cause of their injury, and life since.

A strong focus of the presentation is on risk minimisation and the consequences of careless or high-risk activities. Now in its fourth year the SpinChat program has taken the injury prevention message to over 40,000 Victorian students.



Why is SpinChat a vital program?

The statistics around spinal cord injury highlight how important the prevention message is for students.

- 15-24 year olds are at highest risk of a spinal cord injury (80% male, 20% female)
- 350-400 new cases of spinal cord injury are reported in Australia each year; that's more than one every day
- The most common causes of spinal cord injury are preventable
- There is no cure for a spinal cord injury

With high school students approaching the legal driving and drinking age, we believe the message of injury prevention and risk minimisation is an important one.

The speakers

Through an open and honest delivery of their story, we're confident that the speaker's experiences and prevention message will resonate strongly with students. Speakers have the following in common:

- They have a spinal cord injury and use a wheelchair
- Their injuries were a direct result of an accident
- They had their accident when they were in the high-risk age group
- They all believed an accident would never happen to them

Read the speakers' full bios at www.spinchat.org.au

What to expect?

Typically, a SpinChat session lasts between 45-60 minutes, but can be tailored to suit your specific timetable requirements.

A session generally includes a short introductory DVD, the speaker sharing their personal story and time for questions from students.

