



Mr Perry Cross

Founder and President, Perry Cross Spinal Research Foundation

For someone whose physical situation doesn't afford the luxury of much movement, Perry Cross is one of the world's most motivating movers, having travelled across Australia and across the world, his powerful message reaching tens of thousands who believe everything is possible!

A rugby tackle in 1994, at the age of 19, left Perry Cross a C2 ventilated quadriplegic, unable to move and on a life support machine... with a team of around-the-clock medical carers at his side.

Faced with a life of oblivion – he made an immensely courageous choice “to get moving”. The challenge lay before him, the fight to live, then to talk and eventually to live outside the hospital. He not only achieved this but has excelled in life ever since. He's been heralded by media worldwide as a tremendous role model for the human spirit in overcoming the odds.

In 1996, he became Australia's first motivational speaker on life support and was runner-up in the prestigious International Communicator of the Year Awards.

“Pez” as he's affectionately known, was named Suncorp Young Queenslander of the Year and a finalist in the Young Australian of the Year Awards.

The Year 2000 saw Perry complete a Communications and Business degree at Bond University – another groundbreaking “first”.

Perry has also travelled to the United States as an advisor to the United Nations General Assembly on behalf of young Australians. While in New York, he met his look-alike, the late Christopher Reeve to discuss research and raise awareness and funds towards a cure for paralysis. Perry met with the Governor General and the Prime Minister as an envoy for Reeve, lobbying the legislation of Stem Cell Research.

In 2005 Perry released his autobiography “Still Standing”, his message is simply powerful and powerfully simple.

Inspired by the work of Christopher Reeve, Perry Cross is now the President and Founder of the Perry Cross Spinal Research Foundation based in Queensland, Australia. Perry is a true visionary, humble leader and change maker that the spinal cord injury sector has embraced globally. Perry was recently named “Cure Warrior Advocate of the Year” at the International Working 2 Walk Symposium.

The Perry Cross Spinal Research has one main aim, to find a cure for paralysis.

Every minute of every day is a challenge for Perry.

Perry's story is about triumph over tragedy, and the purposeful decisions he had to make to push himself harder, higher and better no matter what life threw his way, it is a story that will inspire and encourage.

Perry's motto is simple and he lives his life by it every day – Everything Is Possible!