

Wheel Talk for Geelong



Wheelchair sport is about to take off in Geelong. Picture supplied

Primary and secondary students in the Greater Geelong region will play host to an array of wheelchair awareness activities next week, as the Wheel Talk Disability Awareness Program rolls into town. From May 11 to 15, students at selected schools will participate in sessions to learn about spinal cord injury, prevention, and the range of sport and recreational opportunities available to people with a disability.

Led by waterskiing world champion Jason Sleep, the students will also get to experience the challenges of living in a wheelchair, through partaking in a short game of wheelchair basketball. "I encourage the kids to have dreams and set goals, and to believe that anything is possible if you just turn off your computer and go outside and have a go," Mr Sleep said.

According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, 20 per cent of the Australian population has a disability. The program promotes that living life with a disability doesn't mean giving up on leading a meaningful and active lifestyle. Developed by the state's leading provider of sport and recreation for people with a disability, Wheelchair Sports Victoria, the Wheel Talk Program has been visiting primary and secondary schools, tertiary institutions and corporations for the past decade.

The regional tours are an important focus on the annual Wheelchair Sports Victoria calendar, with a primary goal to educate members of the wider community regarding some of the challenges faced by people living with a disability. The Wheel Talk Regional Tour coincides with the TAC Great Ocean Road Marathon and Wheelchair Athletes' Challenge, being held from May 16 to 17.