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## Plenary: The Improvement of Quality of Life through Opportunity

Ben Lucas

### Session description:

#### Speaker biography:

In 1989, Ben Lucas was involved in a motorcycle vs. van accident which resulted in a burst fracture at L3. Following his injury he spent six months working hard on his rehab and consequently has the ability to walk short distances – something he is grateful for. Ben became a world ranked athlete, representing New Zealand in wheelchair racing at both Commonwealth and Paralympic Games, winning bronze in Canada in 1994. His passion for seating arose when working for Allied Medical in sales for 10 years, setting up both manual and power wheelchairs, and paediatric rehab equipment. He was also CEO of the New Zealand Spinal Trust for over four years. His own personal experience, coupled with his impressive work resume made him the ideal candidate for his current role of Voice of the Consumer with Accident Compensation Corporation, New Zealand. Ben is happily married to his wife Tracie with whom he shares two kids.