

## **Case Study – George, Community Setting**

George is a 50 year old male who lives with his wife and one adult daughter in his own home in a large regional city. He has 2 other daughters who no longer live at home.

George was involved in a work accident whilst a member of the Army, 16 years ago and sustained C5 incomplete tetraplegia. He self-propels a manual wheelchair and is dependent on this for all mobility. Accessible public transport is limited to taxis where George lives, so he always drives his own car, transferring his wheelchair into the passenger or back seat.

George is independent in his personal ADL but states he is a bit slower than he used to be due to problems with severe spasm and shoulder pain. He usually showers in the morning, transferring from his wheelchair onto a pull-down shower bench. He uses condom drainage and has a bowel regime. He reports he rarely has continence accidents.

George is currently not involved in paid employment but his wife works shift work and George does a number of domestic tasks including cooking and laundry.

George frequently visits schools to talk to them about spinal cord injury and living in a wheelchair. He sometimes has a number of wheelchairs at these presentations and lets children play wheelchair basketball. George used to play a lot of wheelchair sport but says he is not playing much now as he has had a number of medical problems including frequent autonomic dysreflexia. George's main ongoing sporting interest is coaching a women's Dragon Boat rowing crew. He works with the women both on land and in the boat.

George reports he is bad at doing nothing so tries to keep busy with community activities, home duties, supporting his daughter with her new baby and spending time on his computer. George has a long history of insomnia and will often spend a lot of the night on his computer.

George has had his current manual wheelchair and cushion for seven years. The wheelchair has had a number of repairs and both the wheelchair and cushion are in need of urgent replacement. George is eligible for funding for the new equipment through an insurance scheme. He is not really sure what sort of wheelchair would best meet his current needs. George has not had any therapy involvement in the last five years because he said there are limited services available where he lives and he has mostly been managing ok anyway.