

## > Siemens and the Melbourne Press Club recognise young talent in journalism

Melbourne, Mar 12, 2013

**Melbourne University student Matthew Pierri, from Kew, wins the Siemens/Melbourne Press Club Student Journalism award for his feature article focused on raising awareness of spinal cord injuries.**



The article 'Hope and healing' published in the Sunday Age is the result of Media and Communications student Matthew Pierri's belief in the power of storytelling in raising public awareness of relatively unknown issues. The award winning article discusses how patients with spinal cord injuries are challenging mainstream treatments in their bid to recover use of their paralysed limbs.

Having suffered a spinal cord injury himself, Matthew said he wants to help change the way the medical world treats spinal injuries, to focus more on recovery rather than the current rehabilitation focus of adjusting to life in a wheelchair.

"I'm honoured to win this award; it came as a pleasant surprise. I'd also like to thank Siemens and the Melbourne Press Club, winning this award gives the story a renewed focus," Matthew says.

The judging panel says "Matthew produced an engaging, well-researched piece that was highly personal, yet balanced and objective. It was a joy to read from start to finish - leaving the reader richer for the experience".

When researching the article Matthew found a lot of spinal cord patients who shared his view of the mainstream rehabilitation treatment for spinal cord injuries.

Siemens has been involved with the Student Journalism award for the past 16 years and is a strong supporter of encouraging young talent.

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