

# Expo to open new world of opportunities for disabled

## USING SPORT TO REHABILITATE

**Deborah FitzGerald**

BY the time Concord's Daniel Borzuola entered his teenage years, his cerebral palsy made it difficult to continue playing mainstream sport.

He was forced to drop his beloved soccer.

But a new expo focused on getting people with disabilities back into sport has opened up a world of possibilities for the 20-year-old.

Return2Sport organised by the Royal Rehabilitation Centre and the Australian Paralympic Committee, brings together disabled people, sporting groups and

professional athletes to explore what is possible.

Borzuola said he was excited about the expo because he was interested in playing golf but had not been very successful to date.

"I had tried playing with a double-handed grip but it didn't work.

"Now, I have the freedom to play with one hand and I can hit the ball.

"When you think about Jack Newtown and his swing using only one hand you begin to realise its possible."

Annandale recreational therapist Suzanne Stacey said the repetitive nature of rehabilitation exercises

could make recovery boring but engaging with a sport was a solution.

"If someone with a disability can see a way of participating in an activity that they love, it can make their progress quicker and more enjoyable."

She said the great thing about the expo is that it was interactive.

### WHAT'S ON

RETURN2SPORT Expo will:

- Showcase sport - offering people with a disability the opportunity to speak with those who play the sport
- Profile interactive sport - have a go
- Spotlight demonstration sport - see how it's done

### THE DETAILS

**WHEN:** Thursday, November 3

**WHERE:** Sports Centre, Sydney Olympic Park

**WHO:** Sporting Organisations Taking Part in Return2Sport include Wheelchair Sports NSW, NRL, Basketball NSW, Rowing Australia, Volleyball Australia, Sailability NSW, Cricket NSW, Football Federation Australia, Disabled Wintersport Australia, Golf NSW, Cycling Australia, ParaQuad, Gymnastics NSW, Riding for the Disabled, Bowls NSW, Wheelchair Rugby League, Softball Australia, NSW Waterski Federation



Daniel Borzuola, who has cerebral palsy, playing golf. Watching him is recreational therapist Suzanne Stacey. Picture: PHIL BLATCH