

Lawrence Goffin

Lawrence Goffin, 34, was training to become a paramedic when he was involved in a freak accident. In March 2007, Lawrence was kite surfing in the waters off the beachside suburb of Aspendale when a gust of wind picked him up and slammed him into a concrete wall.

Lawrence's injuries were horrific: a fractured skull; a blood clot on the brain; a broken nose; one bruised and one collapsed lung; broken ribs; a broken thigh bone, heel and foot and a dislocated ankle. He also suffered extensive facial swelling and bruising.

At the time of his accident, Lawrence was employed as an ambulance driver in patient transport. When paramedics arrived at the scene to treat their unconscious patient, they gave him a 20% chance of survival. "Looking back, I guess I was knocking on heaven's door," says Lawrence.

His two most life-threatening injuries, the blood clot on his brain and his collapsed lung, both required exceptional skill and care to treat. Lawrence spent 13 days in The Alfred's Intensive Care Unit, followed by several weeks on the ward. He faced extensive rehabilitation in order to fulfil his dream of becoming a paramedic. His daughter, Lily, provides much of the inspiration he needs.

"The doctors used a piece of equipment on me, to help with the severe blood clot on my brain. It was called an 'intercranial pressure gauge' and it told them when the pressure in my skull was rising, so they knew when to relieve it. Amazing. I mean I had a 20% chance of survival and they got me through. I'm sure that helped."

Lawrence is still recovering from his injuries, but his prognosis is good.

"We are so lucky to have a place like The Alfred," he said. "I hate to think what would happen to people like me if The Alfred wasn't there."



Lawrence in hospital



Lawrence with his daughter