

John Zagami

Sharon, and her children, Morgan and Alex, can't help thinking back to the day in 2008 when their family life spun out of control. It was Morgan's 16th birthday party. Guests had arrived at the family home, a birthday cake had been baked, and there was talk, music and laughter throughout the house.

But when the phone rang, Sharon could not have guessed that it was to inform her that her husband, Morgan and Alex's father, who had been travelling to a local town, had been in a road accident. Sharon tells now of her shocked response:

"I just felt disbelief when I received the call about John. We had a house full of people and I had to arrange for everyone to get home. I wasn't prepared for what had happened but I needed to kick into organisation mode. I told the kids that he was going to be all right, hoping that he really was."

When he arrived at The Alfred, it was clear that John had been very badly injured. John recalls now that the force of the accident hurled him to the asphalt, where he then crashed through tree branches, slid across a dry creek bank and slammed in to a street sign.

Dr Jack Spencer, one of the first emergency physicians to attend to John when he arrived at The Alfred, said:

"John had an unstable spinal fracture, multiple rib fractures and he needed a chest tube. He had a tear in his aortic wall, which had the potential to rupture and become a fatal injury. Thankfully, that injury was picked up on the scans we did as it was not suspected when he arrived."

John was treated at the hospital for seven weeks, but only remembers two. He sustained five broken ribs, a collapsed lung, damaged diaphragm, swollen and bruised heart, two stents in his abdomen, two fractured vertebrae and a broken neck.

Reflecting on his time at The Alfred, John says now:

"When my daughter first saw me, she ran out of the room because I was such a mess. It was such a shock to her and she couldn't be with me for quite some time."

Thankfully, John is now completing his rehabilitation and is expected to make a full recovery.

Sharon is still overwhelmed by what has happened but is thankful every day that John is still with her.

"How do you thank people for saving your husband's life? That's what it boils down to. Words can't express the gratitude that I feel for what they've done."



John when he arrived at The Alfred



John today