



PRF

MERE RODEN

Mere has been in a wheelchair for 13 years (since 2006) after an abscess on her spine lead to T6 paraplegia.

In 2014 a friend invited her to a "Smashdown Barriers" program where she tried table tennis for the first time, and loved it! From that first day she wanted to be a champion and a year later she was travelling to Australia to play for Fiji where she defeated the Australian number 1.

Mere is an Oceania Gold Medalist for Table Tennis and also attended the Rio Paralympics and in 2016 was named Fijian Sportswoman of the Year. She is ranked number 1 in Oceania for class 5 Table Tennis.



All of Mere's chairs over the past 13 years (there have been 3) have been standard weight chairs kindly donated by the Latter Day Saints in Utah.

Mere's chair was far too big for her, the backrest was too high and she was unable to move her shoulders. The armrests were too high and she was unable to rest her arms comfortably. The seat was very low making it impossible for her to access some of the desks at her workplace.

The amazing thing is despite all the shortcomings with her chair she still managed to compete and win GOLD.

Mere is an inspiration to others, showing that life is not over just because you are in a chair. She uses her sport to break down barriers and encourages others to get out and give it a go like she did.

Mere is very humble and wants to be nothing more than a great role model for others with disabilities.





Having an ultra-lightweight chair that is set up for her specifically has allowed Mere to reduce the barriers of access that were previously a major hindrance in everyday life. Comfort and function have also increased Meres length of functional time within her chair allowing her to take on a new role as President of the Spinal Injuries Association of Fiji.

Mere can now access her workplace and use the computer at her desk, her mobility and maneuverability has improved out of sight. The chair fits her frame and the arm rests and leg rests are both positioned for comfort and function reducing fatigue and referred pain. We are looking forward to great results on the Table Tennis arena too!

ALLIED MEDICAL GENEROUSLY DONATED A CHAIR AND SEATING FOR MERE

**MERE'S NEW CHAIR WAS KINDLY DONATED BY ALLIED MEDICAL LTD
HEARTFELT THANKS TO KATIE NOBLE FOR THIS AMAZING DONATION.**

HOW YOU CAN DONATE

SEND DONATIONS TO: PACIFIC REHAB FOUNDATION

WESTPAC BANK

A/C 03-0259-0024175-00

REF: DONATION

OR VIA OUR "GIVE A LITTLE" PAGE - PACIFIC REHAB FOUNDATION

PLEASE EMAIL YOU DONATION ADVICE TO:

MANDY@REHABACTION.CO.NZ

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