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Student overcomes serious injuries to get back on track with SACE

Against all odds, Temple Christian College student Lewis Anderson has overcome serious injuries sustained in a car accident to get back on track and complete his Year 12 South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE) studies.

In February 18-year-old Lewis was involved in a collision while working part-time delivering pizzas.

He was airlifted to Flinders Medical Centre suffering from brain damage and nerve damage to his left shoulder and hand.

Initially, medical staff prepared his family for the worst. However Lewis has astounded his doctors, family, friends and teachers by coming back from the brink of death.

He was placed in an induced coma for two weeks but then started to slowly respond to treatment. Lewis has no memory of the accident, or the first six weeks after it, due to post-traumatic amnesia.

After only three months in hospital, (doctors had anticipated six to 12 months) he was able to return to his studies in mid-May.

With the help of his teachers and some private tutoring Lewis has completed his SACE studies which included English Communications, Integrated Learning, Creative Arts and Design and Technology (Material Products).

He is now awaiting his results which all SACE students are expected to receive in the week before Christmas.

His father John Anderson attributes his remarkable recovery to the fact that Lewis is a determined young man.

“That and the fact that there was an enormous amount of prayer and amazing support and treatment from staff at Flinders Medical Centre and following that, the Women’s and Children’s Hospital Pediatric Rehabilitation Unit,” John said.

Lewis’s accident has had one positive outcome – helping him determine his future career path.

“When I started the year I didn’t know what I wanted to do. But now I know I’d like to study Health Sciences – maybe something involving Human Movement - if I achieve a satisfactory score,” he said.

Lewis is looking positively towards the future – anticipating that any residual impact from his injuries will be resolved in about six months.