

# Alexa Leary



An aspiring athlete from a young age, 22-year old former triathlete and current champion swimmer Alexa Leary will represent the green and gold at the 2024 Paris Paralympics showcasing her outstanding skills in freestyle for the individual and team relay events. Alexa will accomplish this amazing milestone just three years post a traumatic brain injury sustained in 2021 which saw her immobilised and in question of ever walking again.

At just six years of age, Alexa found herself spending countless hours in the sun alongside her six siblings mirroring her parent's love for cycling, with Alexa later following in their footsteps by joining a triathlon club.

The Gold Coast local quickly turned her passion for running, cycling and swimming into sporting success when she was crowned the 2018 Noosa Triathlete Champion. The following year, Alexa built upon her success receiving podium at an international competition and placing second in the Triathlon Grand Final in Switzerland. Alexa's laurels lead to being named in the 2019 Queensland National Triathlon Team, continuing her upward trajectory in the triathlon world to be crowned back-to-back National Triathlon Champion in 2019 and 2020.

In 2021, Alexa's life took a devastating turn when she suffered a horrific brain injury from a cycling accident, resulting in a broken skull and serious injuries to her ribs, legs and lungs. The extent of Alexa's injuries meant she was not expected to survive, let alone walk or talk again. Defying all odds, Alexa made a miraculous recovery after an enduring 111 days in hospital, requiring numerous surgeries, relearning how to walk and navigating her life with her traumatic brain injury. A rigorous three months later, Alexa returned to the pool for the first time with a new fire burning inside of her to accomplish her dream of competing at an Olympics.

Alexa's perseverance saw her secure a place in the highly competitive 2023 Para World Championship team remarkably just two years post injury. Proudly donning the green and gold, Alexa dominated at the World Championships, winning gold in the S9 100m Freestyle and earning a silver medal in the S9 50m Freestyle.

In 2024, Alexa set a world record in the S9 100m Freestyle event at the Australian Open Championships and prevailed at the Australian swimming trials leading to her qualification for the Paris 2024 Paralympics and successfully achieving her goal of representing her country at the world's most prestigious sporting event. Alexa will compete in the S9 100m Freestyle, S9 50m Freestyle and the Australian Paralympic team relay in August 2024 and is in strong medal contention following her terrific form in the lead up to the Paralympic Games.



Away from the pool, Alexa's other interests include a newfound enthusiasm for DJ'ing, stemming from her love for music. She is also passionate about raising awareness for Traumatic Brain Injuries following her lifechanging cycle accident and supporting other athletes in their recovery journey.

Alexa aims to uplift the community with her inspiring story of resilience and overcoming adversity to attain her dreams.