Dylan Alcott
– Australian of the Year 2022

Dylan Alcott was born in 1990 in Melbourne, Australia. He is a public figure and para-athlete. He was born with a tumour wrapped around his spinal cord, which made him a paraplegic. He was bullied over his disability when he was a teenager and says he 'dreaded being in a wheelchair'.

Dylan has competed in many paralympic wheelchair sports, such as wheelchair basketball and wheelchair tennis. He won a gold medal with the Australian wheelchair basketball team, the Rollers, at the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games.

In 2016, Dylan was the first para-athlete to be awarded Tennis Australia's Newcombe Medal. At age 31, he made history as the first man to achieve a Golden Slam in tennis (four Grand Slams and a Paralympic Gold Medal).

Dylan has used his success on the tennis court to change perceptions about disability. Alongside his sporting skills, he established the Dylan Alcott Foundation, which provides scholarships and funding to marginalised Australians with a disability. Dylan also co-founded Get Skilled Access, an inclusive consulting company, and AbilityFest, which is Australia's first accessible and fully inclusive music festival.

In 2022, Dylan Alcott was named Australian of the Year. The award recognises 'an inspirational role model for the Australian community'.

Dylan has said of his disability: 'It may shock a lot of people, but the thing I am proudest of now is my disability and I love it.'

Sources

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