



Rapt: Chloey Doughoney and Brae with their gift from the WA Motor Industry Foundation. Picture: Kerry Edwards

New wheels a joy for Chloey and Brae

DAWN GIBSON

Life has not been easy for single mother Chloey Doughoney.

Her son Brae struggled to breathe for almost half an hour after he was born, leaving him with irreparable brain damage and other health problems, including significant development delays, epilepsy, feeding difficulties and impaired vision.

The Bunbury mum now spends much of her time travelling to and from Perth to take her now 11-month-old son to medical appointments, a situation that has

become a nightmare because of her old car, which regularly breaks down on the long trip.

So when Ms Doughoney was told that a new WA charitable foundation was willing to give her a 2004 Daihatsu four-wheel-drive vehicle to make the journey easier, complete with free servicing and insurance for a year, she thought Christmas had come early.

"This means Brae's health, really," she said, as she took a first look at her new car. "It is just good to know we now have a safe means of transport in an emergency or for planned events."

The gift was expected to be the first of many to disadvantaged West Australians distributed through the WA Motor Industry Foundation, which was formed to enable people who have prospered in the automotive industry to give something back to the community.

It has 110 members, including car dealers, repairers, panel beaters and banking and insurance firms. WA Motor Trade Association chief executive and foundation chairman Peter Fitzpatrick said it was important that companies did not lose sight of their place in the community.