

8 December 2009



MEDIA RELEASE

Kids Need Wheelie Good Christmas

The Centre for Cerebral Palsy's Equipment Sponsorship Wish List has over \$70,000 of equipment that urgently needs funding before Christmas.

Twelve year old Darren from Northbridge has been waiting for a Walkaide since February 2009. This innovative equipment sends electrical impulses through nerves in the leg to stimulate the activation of muscles in order to assist with foot clearance and to achieve more function and independent walking patterns.

Kathy Kane, Business Development Manager at The Centre says, "Over the past decade new technology has had a huge impact on the quality of life for people with cerebral palsy. However, this technology can be very expensive and beyond the reach of most families."

To help families in need of support, The Centre introduced an Equipment Sponsorship Funding Programme where 100% of funds raised directly benefits individuals or groups within The Centre.

Over the last five years The Centre with the support of the wider community has funded specialised equipment and special projects to the value of \$1.1 million. Mrs Kane encourages the community to come together this Christmas to clear the backlog of wheelchair, walkers and other specialized equipment children urgently need to keep them active and on the move for the festive season and ready for school in February.

To fund or contribute towards the cost of an item on the Wish List contact Kathy at The Centre on 9443 0228 or kathy.kane@tccp.com.au.

-ENDS-

For further information or to arrange a Photo Opportunity please contact:

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FACTS ABOUT CEREBRAL PALSY

- *CP is a permanent physical condition that affects movement.*
- *In Australia a child is born with CP every 18 hours.*
- *Australians under 18 are three times more likely to be diagnosed with cerebral palsy than cancer.*
- *There is no pre-birth test, no known cure and severity is on the increase.*
- *For most the cause of CP is unknown.*
- *CP is not a disease, it is not contagious.*
- *CP can be as mild as just a weakness in one hand ranging to almost complete lack of movement.*
- *Since 1951 The Cerebral Palsy Association has forged an enviable reputation as one of the leading disability service providers in WA. In line with the outstanding work we do in the area of CP management and support to those with disability, on 13 March 2007 we adopted a new name The Centre for Cerebral Palsy and colourful new logo.*