

## MEDIA RELEASE



16 July 2009

### Meet Seville Grove's CP Week Perth-O-Nality

During National [Cerebral Palsy Awareness Week \(CP Week\)](#) over 20 CP Week **Perth-O-Nalities** are celebrating the difference people with CP are making in WA as part of The Centre for Cerebral Palsy's 'You Be the Difference' National Online Campaign.

Twenty-one year old Melissa from Seville Grove is one of the outstanding individuals sharing her story about how she is 'being the difference,' by overcoming challenges to become a respected and valued member of the WA community. Born 16 weeks premature, Melissa surprised everyone by surviving and going on to use her disability as motivation to help others. She has volunteered for organisations such as Red Cross and Salvation Army, acts as a Research Development Coordinator for the St John Australian Youth Council, is a member of The Centre's Board of Directors and has successfully completed a Diploma of Public Relations.

**CEO Judy Hogben says, "The Centre has been working closely with people with CP and their families to help build fulfilling futures for people like Melissa since 1951. It is very rewarding to see people who have more barriers to overcome than most of us do in a lifetime, go on to make substantial differences in our community."**

**"CP Week gives us the opportunity to acknowledge these people's achievements, their devoted families, the dedicated staff at The Centre and the kind support we have received from the wider community over the past 58 years," Ms Hogben says.**

Ms Hogben encourages readers to visit [www.youbethedifference.com.au](http://www.youbethedifference.com.au) to read how

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CP Week Perth-O-Nalities like Melissa are making a difference in our community. There is also the opportunity to send a message of support or to make a donation towards equipment and services that can help other children and adults with CP.

The Centre's work in helping to build independent futures for people like Melissa is limited to the funding we receive. She encourages readers to visit [www.youbethedifference.com.au](http://www.youbethedifference.com.au) and to 'Make a Difference and Donate' as part of this year's National Cerebral Palsy Awareness Week August 2-8.

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**For further information contact:**

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**Photo Opportunity:**

Melissa is available for photos and interviews

**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.*