

MEDIA RELEASE



17 July 2009

Meet Swan Valley'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 can make as part of The Centre for Cerebral Palsy's 'You Be the Difference' National Online Campaign.

Seventeen-year-old Andrew from The Vines is one of these outstanding individuals telling his story about how he is 'being the difference' in the WA community by mentoring other young people.

Andrew, who spends most of his time in an electric wheelchair, was awarded The Centre's Joseph Michell Scholarship earlier this year to help further his education with a Diploma in Business Administration and Marketing studies.

"One of my long term goals is to be able to provide advice and direction to disadvantaged young people, particularly those with disabilities," he says.

In addition to Andrew's commitment to studying, he is also a dedicated Youth Leader at Dreambuilders community church in the Swan Valley.

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 Andrew 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 to read how CP Week Perth-O-Nalities like Andrew 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 Andrew is limited to the funding we receive. He encourages readers to visit 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:
Andrew is available for an interview and photos

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.*