

February 15, 2010

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Scholarship's First Valedictorian!**

Maria one of The Centre for Cerebral Palsy's past Scholarship winners graduated with a Bachelor of Law, first class honours with the highest grade point average of all students graduating in her year.

#### **Over 1,000 people stood when Maria's name was announced as the Valedictorian**

The 2010 Winner of the Joseph Michell Scholarship will be announced this Thursday 18 February from 6.00pm- 8.00pm at the UWA Watersports Complex in Crawley.

We invite members of the media to attend the Award Ceremony and cover one of the highlights of the year for this year's school leavers.

The Scholarship is named in honour of The Centre's late founder, Joseph Michell. He highly regarded the benefits of a good education and as a result the Scholarship helps school leavers with cerebral palsy to pursue their educational ambitions beyond secondary school.

Maria said 'It was always going to take me longer to finish my degree, but I knew if I did the best I could, I would succeed' and succeed she did.

A long time advocate for people with Cerebral Palsy Kerry Allan-Zinner once said 'People with a disability are not different they just do things differently'.

Judy Hogben The Centre's CEO said "The Centre prides itself in helping to make dreams possible, if students have the same willpower to succeed as Maria did the right support to make it happen they will continue to reach their potential regardless of which path they took to get there".

For more information on the Joseph Michell Scholarship, past and present winners please join us on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> or visit [www.tccp.com.au](http://www.tccp.com.au) and follow the links to the Joseph Michell Scholarship.

**-ENDS-**

***Photo opportunity:***

Joseph Michell Scholarship Award Ceremony  
UWA Watersports Complex, Car Park 23, Hackett Drive, Crawley, Western Australia  
Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2009  
6.00 - 7.30pm

***For further information 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.*