

## **MEDIA RELEASE**



### **Kids Can with the help of the WA Community**

Kaisah attends Kindy at Glengarry Primary School, and this charming six year old, with the help of her family, school, the Lions Club of Duncraig and the wider community, has raised over \$4,000 in The Centre for Cerebral Palsy's Wheelie Big Challenge.

The Wheelie Big Challenge is an Annual event designed to Champion people living with cerebral palsy (CP) and to raise funds for special projects at The Centre for Cerebral Palsy (The Centre). Kaisah's Challenge is to fund Sleep Solutions equipment to keep kids like her safe and comfortable at night.

Kaisah, like 600 other children with CP, access services through 'Kids Can', in The Centre's Intervention Programme for children with CP aged 0-17 years. She is currently working with The Centre's innovative Sleep Solutions Team to overcome sleep issues.

Research shows that up to 80% of people with CP and like disabilities experience sleep issues which can have an enormous impact not only on their own lives but on that of their families who care for them.

Sleep disturbance affects many aspects of daily function including learning ability, task performance, mood, behaviour, concentration and immune system function. It can also strain relationships with family, peers or workmates.

Earlier this year Kaisah urgently needed an electric bed, as she was growing too big for mum to lift. The Centre recommended an adjustable electric bed to help overcome this problem and assist her devoted family to attend to her needs throughout the night at waist height.

Specialised equipment such as electric beds are very expensive and can be out of the reach for most families, which is why Kaisah's efforts in taking this year's Challenge are to be commended.

Recently Kasiah has been learning to drive an electric wheelchair. However, the battery pack is broken and only lasts for 15 minutes. Replacing this component is yet another expense for her family and the item has been placed on The Centre's [Wish List](#) for funding by the WA Community.

Ms Kathy Kane, The Centre's Business Development Manager says, "It is a pleasure to work with families like Kaisah's to provide advice, support and technical expertise to assist them to gain greater independence through the use of equipment and technology options."

"It is even more rewarding working with families and local community groups who all pitched in to raise over \$4,000 so far towards Kaisah's Wheelie Big Challenge," Ms Kane adds.

Kasiah is one of 14 Champions competing in The Centre's Wheelie Big Day Out with wheelchair races and more at Burswood Park Foreshore on Sunday 7 March from 11 to 2pm. It is an open event and all are invited to come along and cheer on the Champions in the biggest Wheelchair Race ever!

To find out more about Kaisah's Challenge and to make a donation towards The Centre's Equipment Sponsorship Programme to keep kids safe and comfortable at night please visit [www.wheeliebigchallenge.com.au](http://www.wheeliebigchallenge.com.au) and follow the link to [Kaisah's webpage](#). Here you can contribute towards Kasiah's target and leave a message of support.

-ENDS-

**For further information or to arrange a photo opportunity please contact:**

Elisha Moran

Communications & PR Officer

The Centre for Cerebral Palsy

e: [elisha.moran@tccp.com.au](mailto:elisha.moran@tccp.com.au)

t: (08) 9443 0246

m: 0416 479 841

#### **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.*