



celebrating potential, creating possibilities



*Sarah uses her eye movements
to communicate*



MEDIA RELEASE

Communicating in Silence for Speech Pathology Awareness Week

This Thursday August 27 at 10am, The Centre for Cerebral Palsy's Speech Pathologists are holding a 'Silent Morning Tea' to celebrate Speech Pathology Awareness Week 2009.

A range of devices will be demonstrated to show how people with Cerebral Palsy and other disabilities can express themselves without verbal communication.

These devices can be as simple as a board with pictures representing a person's daily needs, or as complex as electronic speech synthesizers.

Machines known as "augmentative and alternative communication systems (AAC)" give a voice through a machine or computer and from a text source, such as a keyboard or pre-programmed answers. Recent technological advancements produce a more personalized voice, instead of a flat robotic-like tone.

Charlotte Wigham, Speech Pathologist in The Centre's Early Intervention Programme says, "This technology helps a person with CP communicate effectively, feel more independent, and take part in social activities."

Ms Wigham hopes the Morning Tea will help people understand the frustration and challenges faced by people with communication difficulties.

August 25, 2009

She adds, "The morning tea is a silent morning tea in which people are not allowed to talk using their voice but can use other ways to communicate with people. Devices, books and sign supports will be available to use...but also feel free to come up with your own creative way to communicate!"

One in seven Australians has a communication disability. For further information on Speech Pathology Awareness Week Silent Morning Tea please contact The Centre.

-ENDS-

Vision and interview opportunity:

Staff and clients from The Centre demonstrating alternative ways of communicating at the Silent Morning Tea

Date: Thursday 27 August, 2009

Time: 10.00am

Address: Sir David Brand Centre, 106 Bradford St, Coolbinia WA 6050

Elisha Moran

Communications Officer

The Centre for Cerebral Palsy

9443 0246 or 0416 479 841

elisha.moran@tccp.com.au

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.*