



MEDIA RELEASE

Carer Donates Winnings to Makeover Children's Respite Home

Bernadette Williams, winner of a Disability Support Worker Award 2009, showed the extent of her caring nature this year when she donated her prize money to help makeover The Centre for Cerebral Palsy's Children's Respite Home.

The mother of two from Mullaloo has been working at Arnhem Court for seven years and received her Accommodation Support award for her role in improving the quality of life for a young man with cerebral palsy and for helping his family come to terms with his disability.

Ms Williams' contribution was part of a year-long, \$150,000 makeover to bring colour and joy to the 30 children who spend regular time at the home.

She said, "It means so much to me to be a carer; it is more than just a job. I decided to donate my prize money towards the makeover because I knew what a difference it would make to the children who access Respite."

Judy Hogben, The Centre's CEO, said "Arnhem Court's new look is due to the refurbishment of the Home's activities room and outdoor play area which now has a bright new wheelchair swing, a new state of the art activities room and an interactive garden with potted colour and fresh herbs"

"This was a perfect example of one of our carers going above and beyond the call of duty to achieve the very best outcomes for children with CP who need our support," added Ms Hogben.

Carers such as Ms Williams form an integral part of The Centre's support network for families. During Carers Week 2009, The Centre would like to acknowledge the important role carers play and congratulate them on another year of enabling people with disabilities to maximise their participation.

For further information on starting a career as a Carer with The Centre please visit www.tccp.com.au.

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Photo Opportunity

Ms Williams playing with children in Arnhem Court's new wheelchair swing.

Date and time can be arranged by contacting Elisha.

For further information 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.*