

23 April 2009

## MEDIA RELEASE

### **Ian's Special Mother's Day Tribute**

By nature mothers always want what is best for their children, among which is a little understanding and independence.

Mothers love and nurture their children and hope they grow up to be good people who reach their potential and make their own way in the world. But ever since Ian was diagnosed with cerebral palsy his mum, Clare, wondered if that could ever happen for her son.

Like most parents of children with cerebral palsy she was his full time carer, 24 hours a day seven days a week; feeding, washing, changing and lifting. Whatever her precious boy needed, she would always be there.

Then Clare was diagnosed with cancer and things had to change:

*"Ian needed full attention. He can't walk, he's incontinent and can suffer epileptic fits at any time. I simply couldn't continue to care for my other 3 children and Ian as well. The Centre was wonderful, they gave us lots of support and found Ian a respite home which could care for him while I recovered," she remembers.*

Since then Ian hasn't looked back. Now 28, he has moved into his 'own place' with full time care, living and sharing his new home with 3 other young adults in one of The Centre for Cerebral Palsy's Community Homes. Ian enjoys attending alternative to work activities through The Centre's Opportunities Programme. He is also an avid football fan and loves watching his beloved Dockers train and attending home games. In a way, Clare's dream of seeing her son become independent has come true.

To say 'thanks' to his devoted mother Ian, with the help of The Centre for Cerebral Palsy staff, is arranging a Special Morning Tea at his home in Brentwood for Mother's Day.

Barbara Budd, one of The Centre's Coordinators for Ian's Home, said 'He is very excited about putting on the morning tea for his mum in his own home to say thanks for being such an important part of his life'.

-ENDS-

**Ian and his mother, Claire, are available for comment.**

**Photo opportunity:** Ian's Special Mother's Day Morning Tea  
Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May  
10am  
29 Rivett Way, Brentwood WA

**For further information contact:**

**Elisha Moran**  
**Communications & PR Officer**  
The Centre for Cerebral Palsy  
9443 0246 or 0416 479 841 (all hours)  
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.*