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MEDIA RELEASE

**Celebrating Potential – Creating Possibilities**

The Centre for Cerebral Palsy is pleased to announce that 17 year old, James Davies of Mount Claremont is the recipient of the Joseph Michell Scholarship for 2008.

James will be presented with his scholarship at a special ceremony to be held on Tuesday 11 March at The Centre for Cerebral Palsy in Coolbinia.

The scholarship was named in honour of the founder of The Centre for Cerebral Palsy, Joseph Michell, a man who highly regarded the benefits of a good education. The purpose of the scholarship is to provide an improved opportunity each year to a young person with CP to access further education after school.

James recently graduated from Shenton College and will undertake a Diploma of Business at TAFE this year with the goal of ultimately studying Business at University. Since becoming the recipient of the Joseph Michell Scholarship, James has been able to purchase a laptop, which will help to make his transition into TAFE a lot smoother.

Having already completed several certificates in business and entrepreneurship, James' dream is to one day own and operate a travel agency for disabled people. A seasoned interstate and overseas traveler, James knows first hand the challenges faced by people with disabilities when they travel. With assistance from his parents and sister, James thoroughly enjoys traveling, finding it "a very rich and rewarding experience".

"Unfortunately, not every disabled person is lucky enough to have such extremely physically fit, strong and capable family members, which is why I would like to make traveling easier, not only for myself, but for other disabled people in years to come," James said.

A finalist in the WA Youth Awards, James has not only been commended for his volunteer work with the Salvation Army and commitment to disability education; presenting talks at schools, Universities and state conferences, he is also an advocate for disabled people undertaking further studies. Through persistence and determination, James revolutionized TAFE's personal care support policy, resulting in the appointment of a Carer and funds to meet the personal care requirements of people with disabilities furthering their education at TAFE.

"I see education as the pathway to a prosperous future" says James, who aims to improve the inclusion process not only at TAFE, but University as well.

James is an intelligent and remarkable young man and I have enclosed his written application for the Scholarship – I am sure you will find his story truly inspirational.

-ENDS-

***For further information please contact:***

Jess Newell

Communications Officer

The Centre for Cerebral Palsy

e: [jessica.newell@tccp.com.au](mailto:jessica.newell@tccp.com.au)

t: (08) 9443 0246

**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.*