



celebrating potential, creating possibilities

19 December 2008

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Bonus Payment a Welcome Boost for Caring Families**

The Government's Economic Security Strategy payments are rolling in this week and the question on everyone's lips is, "what will they be spent on?"

North Perth mother and carer, Judith Curtis, will use the bonus to purchase specialised equipment for her 12-year-old son, Daniel, who has cerebral palsy.

"Daniel really benefits from hydrotherapy so we will be getting him a buoyancy vest designed to give him greater independence in the pool", she says.

Judith is also "excited about Daniel being able to have a Switch Toy under the tree this Christmas."

Switch Toys are modified electronic toys that have large buttons attached, making it easier for children with disabilities to operate.

The cost of living with disability is high and The Centre for Cerebral Palsy offers support by providing services such as hydrotherapy and respite care to over 600 children with CP in WA including Daniel.

Judy Hogben, The Centre's CEO, commends the government for this initiative as it eases some of the pressure faced by families living with disability.

"One of The Centre's key aims is to promote client and family participation in the wider community, and this extra payment makes it possible for the families of people with disabilities to participate more fully in Christmas festivities this year", says Ms Hogben.

Visit [www.tccp.com.au](http://www.tccp.com.au) to find out more about the services offered by The Centre.

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For further information or to arrange a photo opportunity please 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.*