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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Sweet success for Felicity!**

20 year old Felicity Denham from Leeming may have faced many challenges in her life, however living with cerebral palsy has not stopped her from achieving her goals and pursuing her chosen career path.

Last year, Felicity completed a Bachelor of Science (Food Science and Technology) at Curtin University, and is now undertaking her honours under the Department of Agriculture and Food WA, researching the seasonal change in the quality of pie pastry. This involves testing the quality of the flour throughout the year, as well as baking the pastry and analysing the texture.

Felicity hopes to attend an international Food Science Conference in Shanghai this October, before finishing her research paper. "This is leading into a career in the Food Industry, which I am really looking forward to", said Felicity.

Although research and study now take up the majority of Felicity's time, as an undergraduate Felicity ran a Bible Study Group with the Curtin Christian Union as well as her own church youth group.

Felicity's entrance into the workforce began in 2005, when she commenced employment at Coles Fremantle with the assistance of The Centre for Cerebral Palsy's Create Employment.

Create Employment is a division of The Centre, and a Disability Open Employment Service that develops partnerships with mainstream business enterprises keen to provide employment opportunities for people with disabilities. Through a process of work experience, training courses and work trials, Create Employment matches prospective employees' skills, abilities and enthusiasm to various position requirements within the open labour market.

"My job at Coles has supported my studies at uni by running my car, paying for my bus fares and most importantly, buying uni essentials such as coffee and chocolate!" said Felicity. "Create Employment have helped me so that I only work short shifts, rather than get too tired".

Felicity's outstanding customer service skills were recognised in 2006, when she received a letter from the Coles State Manager outlining the positive feedback that had been received from her customers.

Cerebral Palsy Awareness Week runs nationally from 3-9 August. Judy Hogben, CEO for The Centre for Cerebral Palsy said "Our aim is to celebrate the achievements of people living with CP; raise awareness, understanding and acceptance of CP and provide a forum for people with CP to share insights and exchange ideas. Importantly the week is about bringing the WA community together through community and fundraising activities to ensure better lives for those living with CP."

There are many ways the community can support CP Awareness Week. For further information, please visit [www.tccp.com.au](http://www.tccp.com.au).

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***For further information or to arrange a photo or interview 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.*