

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**Tuesday 17 February, 2009**

**BREECH BIRTH A RISK FACTOR FOR CEREBRAL PALSY**

Babies born feet first – a breech delivery – are four times more likely to develop cerebral palsy compared with those born head first.

This research will be presented at the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Cerebral Palsy Conference held in Sydney this week (18-21 February 2009).

The study, led by Guro Andersen, studied about 175,000 children born in Norway between 1986 and 1998, and linked their births to the Norwegian Cerebral Palsy Register. The Australian Cerebral Palsy Register was launched in 2007.

This is one of the few studies to look at the long term results of being born feet first, and suggests that delivering breech babies by caesarean section may prevent a few cases of cerebral palsy.

The study also highlights the importance of cerebral palsy registers as a tool for carrying out high quality research.

Guro Andersen will present the team's findings at the Conference tomorrow from 1.15pm.

**\*\*\*ENDS\*\*\***

**MEDIA ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE CONFERENCE**

**What:** 3<sup>rd</sup> International Cerebral Palsy Conference (the largest of its kind in the world)  
**When:** Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2009  
**Where:** Sydney Convention Centre, Darling Harbour, Sydney

**Presentation:** Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2009  
1.15pm – 2.30pm session (presentation time 2.15pm)  
Bayside 204B room

**FOR FURTHER DETAILS, MEDIA ACCREDITATION, ABSTRACTS OR TO OBTAIN A PROGRAM FOR THE CONFERENCE, PLEASE CONTACT:**

Liz Foy – General Manager, Service Development – 02 9479 7280 / 0419 405 181  
Janine Jones – Marketing and Communications Manager – 02 9479 7245 / 0407 066 813

**Facts about the Cerebral Palsy Institute**

- Researching prevention and curative strategies for cerebral palsy
- Custodians of the Australian Cerebral Palsy Register to monitor trends
- Funding targeted cerebral palsy research through the Cerebral Palsy Institute Grants Program

The Cerebral Palsy Institute  
321 Mona Vale Road  
Terrey Hills 2084  
Tel: 02 9479 7200  
Fax: 02 9479 7292