

MEDIA RELEASE

Monday 16 February, 2009

INFLUENCING GOVERNMENTS TO MAKE CHILD HEALTH A PRIORITY

'Putting children in the centre of our society acknowledges that all aspects of our future capacity depend upon us having the majority of our children and youth healthy and able to participate to their full potential.'

So says Professor Fiona Stanley, former Australian of the Year, who will speak on the importance of child health policies at the upcoming 3rd International Cerebral Palsy Conference held in Sydney this week (18-21 February 2009).

'Our commitment to children and young people has to be serious and of the highest priority. [Government and the community have to] appreciate what are the real situations which enhance the health, wellbeing and life chances of children and young people and to enable rather than disable these enhancing environments,' she says.

'If we compare ourselves to other countries we are not doing so well, overall and for our Indigenous children. Surely government and the community will realise this is important for our future prosperity and fits with their concept of opportunities for all?'

Professor Stanley trained in maternal and child health epidemiology and public health, and has spent her career researching the causes of major childhood illnesses such as birth defects. She established the Telethon Institute for Child Health Research in Perth and she sits on the Prime Minister's Science, Engineering and Innovation Council and the Australian Statistics Advisory Council.

For her research on behalf of Australia's children, she was named Australian of the Year in 2003 and in 2006 she was made a UNICEF Australia Ambassador for Early Childhood Development.

*****ENDS*****

MEDIA ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE CONFERENCE

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

Presentation: Wednesday 18th February, 2009
8.45am, Parkside Ballroom

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

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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

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