

MEDIA RELEASE

February, 2009

NEW THINKING ON CEREBRAL PALSY AND WHAT WE NEED TO KNOW

Parents of children with cerebral palsy and clinicians will benefit from considering new ways to think about this life-long condition.

Professor Peter Rosenbaum, who is among the most experienced developmental paediatric researchers in the world, advises that benefits arise from considering cerebral palsy as a developmental disability, rather than as the result of an injury.

Using that mode of thinking, clinical interaction and service provision can be interlocked for children with cerebral palsy and their families and carers, and early intervention will allow children an easier transition into adulthood. A common language can be formed between service providers and families when 'development' is considered an integral part of the concepts and goals of treatment.

At the 3rd International Cerebral Palsy Conference held in Sydney (18-21 February 09) Professor Rosenbaum, from McMaster University in Canada, will address cerebral palsy as a life-long condition, the lessons from adults with the condition, and why it is important to think about transition to adulthood while working with young children.

Cerebral palsy is a condition that affects the whole family, he says, and this reality impels us to broaden the scope of our focus beyond the child to include the 'human environment' in which children grow and develop. These are new perspectives on old issues and there are opportunities to widen the scope of thinking, of practice and of research to enable young people with cerebral palsy and their families to lead fuller and more productive lives.

*****ENDS*****

MEDIA CONTACTS

Janine Jones – Marketing and Communications Manager - 9479 7245 / 0407 066 813

Liz Foy – General Manager, Service Development – 9479 7280 / 0419 405 181

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