

Embargoed until 4.30pm Friday 20 February 2009

MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday 19 February, 2009

THE MAGIC TOUCH IN INFANT DEVELOPMENT

Massage can accelerate the development of the eyesight and the brain, according to research from Italy.

It can also **improve the short term outcomes for these babies.**

While it is not known for sure how massage helps, it is possible that massage helps stimulate body's hormonal system which helps provide a better and richer environment for normal development.

This research will be presented tomorrow (Friday 20th) at 4.30pm by Professor Giovanni Cioni, Professor of Child Neurology and Psychiatry at the University of Pisa, Italy, **at the 3rd International Cerebral Palsy Conference held in Sydney (18-21 February 2009).**

The aim of the conference is to aid collaboration between internationally renowned researchers across all disciplines to help prevent and treat cerebral palsy.

For further information visit www.cp2009.com.au.

*****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: Clinical and Neurophysical Evidence for early intervention in High Risk Infants
4.30pm Friday 20 February 2009
Parkside Ballroom

FOR FURTHER DETAILS, MEDIA ACCREDITATION 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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