

REPORT REVEALS CP IS COSTING \$ BILLIONS

A new report has shocked researchers by revealing cerebral palsy (CP) is costing the Australian community more than \$3.87 billion per annum. More people live with CP each year than those with breast cancer, multiple sclerosis, bowel cancer, stroke, or muscular dystrophy.

The startling results were revealed in a report – *‘The Economic Impact of Cerebral Palsy in Australia 2007*, commissioned by CP Australia and produced by Access Economics Pty Ltd.

“We knew the impact was greater than currently documented,” said Rob White, President of CP Australia, and CEO of the Spastic Centre and the CP Foundation. “CP is the most common physical disability in childhood, yet many people are still unaware of the condition and the huge impact it has on individuals, their families and the Australian community. In Australia, less than \$1m a year is spent on research into the cause, care and cure of this complex condition,” Mr White said.

Cerebral palsy;-

- Is more prevalent in any year than breast cancer, multiple sclerosis, bowel cancer, stroke or muscular dystrophy;
- Costs the Australian community more than \$3.87 billion each year;
- Is a lifelong condition where the disability increases with age and ageing occurs earlier;
- Is a condition with a higher disability burden than being blind, deaf, having severe asthma or diabetes;
- Is more disabling than having heart failure, localised cancer or the most severe forms of ADHD;
- Is in the top five most costly conditions per person per year \$115,099 - more than dementia, vision loss, cardiovascular disease, osteoporosis, hearing loss and arthritis.

“The report has also revealed that individuals living with cerebral palsy bear 37% of the financial cost and, if cost of wellbeing is included, individuals bear 76% of cost while state governments bear less than 1%,” said Mr White.

CP is caused by damage to the part of the brain controlling movement. It affects every person differently but vision, speech, eating, talking, walking and intellect can be impacted causing a mild to severe disability. This damage is done to the developing brain, usually before birth.

The report confirms that 700 Australian children are diagnosed with CP each year and more than 33,000 Australian are living with the condition. The report reveals that by 2050, 47,601 Australians will have CP and the incidence rate is similar globally.

“The report has stressed the vital need for research into cause, cure and prevention. The CP Foundation has been established to focus on these areas and will lead the world in attempts to find the answers to this global problem,” Mr White concluded

For a fact sheet or further information log onto [www. cpfoundation.com.au](http://www.cpfoundation.com.au) or contact Erin on 1300 55 11 37