



CEREBRAL PALSY | FOUNDATION
UNDERPINNING THE WORK OF THE SPASTIC CENTRE

Finding the answers to cerebral palsy – a global health issue.

Eight-year old Natasha has cerebral palsy (CP), a life-long condition that affects her ability to walk. A new community service announcement (CSA) featuring Natasha is being launched this week to increase the community's understanding of CP.

The CP Foundation is raising funds for targeted research into the prevention and cure of CP to help children like Natasha, in Australia and around the world.

“The vision of the CP Foundation is a world without cerebral palsy,” said Rob White, CEO of The Spastic Centre which established the CP Foundation.

“CP is the most common physical disability in childhood, affecting one in every 400 Australian babies each year. However, there is still little community understanding about how CP impacts on the individual, their family and the community.”

There are over 35,000 Australians living with CP. The community spends over \$500 million a year to provide services and support to children and adults with CP. Yet, less than \$1 million is spent on research into prevention and cure.

“Natasha has been at the forefront of the CP Foundation awareness campaign. She is bright, intelligent and has lots of personality,” said Rob White. “Her determination, optimism, and the commitment of her family has helped her endure painful surgery, and manage thousands of hours of therapy.”

“After 60 years of providing services to people with CP, The Spastic Centre formed the CP Foundation,” explained Rob White. “The aim is to create a sustainable funding source of \$50 million. We are currently in our second year of funding research projects.”

“Our focus is to fund research projects in the field of CP aimed directly at prevention and cure. We have formed a partnership with the Medical Health and Research Council (NHMRC) who will match our funding for eligible projects to maximise research potential.”

The Australian CP Register was launched earlier this year. A similar data-base system was pivotal in discovering the link between folic acid and spina bifida, resulting in a dramatic reduction in incidence. Professor Fiona Stanley AO, who discovered this link, launched the CP Register and continues to work closely with the CP Foundation.

“Finding strategies for the prevention and cure of cerebral palsy is a huge task – but achievable,” said Rob White. “Australia leads the world in the CP arena, and the CSA is bringing public attention to this global health issue.”

To view the launch of the CSA link through to <http://au.youtube.com/watch?v=ekh5Xp9VI0E>
To obtain a photo of Natasha click on the link below.

High resolution version 3.2MB

http://www.cpfoundation.org.au/support_us/natasha-highres.jpg

- Low(er) resolution version 1MB

For further information contact Marisa Chilcott, CP Foundation on 0418 118 632.

The Cerebral Palsy (CP) Foundation aims to find a cure for and prevention of CP
www.cpfoundation.co.au