

Media Release

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Southern Highlands hoped to aid research breakthrough



CEREBRAL PALSY FOUNDATION

More than 100 families in the Southern Highlands know the impact cerebral palsy has on a family.* On Friday 21 November the organization established to search for the answers is being introduced to the people of the Southern Highlands at a function at Peppers.

“Cerebral palsy is the most common physical disability in childhood,” said Bill Bartlett, Chairman of The Cerebral Palsy Foundation. “By introducing the organization to the people of the Southern Highlands, we hope to raise awareness and foster support for our cause in the region. It is through such support we hope to fund breakthrough research. We are delighted one of our Governors – Sally Loane will be MC for the event.

The Spastic Centre established The Cerebral Palsy Foundation to take on the global health challenge for Australia and the world.

“One in every 400 babies born in Australia will have cerebral palsy and these figures are similar around the world,” continued Mr Bartlett, who is also on the Board of the Bradman Foundation and the Bradman Museum. “To ensure our success, it is important to engage the support of the entire community”.

Cerebral palsy is a permanent disability affecting movement and usually results from damage to the developing brain. There is no known cure and, for most, the cause is unknown. People with cerebral palsy may also have seizures, and sensory and intellectual impairments.

It's hoped a breakthrough will be achieved by funding research, expanding a grants program, encouraging researchers to adopt cerebral palsy as their area of study and bringing together the best research minds in cerebral palsy research.

“The answers will not be found overnight,” said Mr Bartlett. “To ensure the research continues until the answers are found a research funding pool of \$50 million is being created of which only the interest will be used to fund ongoing research.

The Cerebral Palsy Foundation has established a partnership with the National Health and Medical Research Council (NH&MRC) who match some grants. The organization also works with Australia's most respected researchers including Prof. Fiona Stanley who discovered the valuable link between folate and spina bifida, dramatically reducing the incidence globally.

* Figure based on population and incidence rate of one in every 400 births will result in a child having cerebral palsy.

**Photo of Bill Bartlett and Sally Loane are available upon request.
Contact Marisa Chilcott 0418 118 632**

If you require further information or would like to make a donation please contact us.

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