CEREBRAL PALSY

A child is born with cerebral palsy every 15 hours.

Cerebral palsy is the most common physical disability in childhood affecting approximately one in 400 children.

Cerebral palsy is a life-long physical disability due to damage of the developing brain. Movement and posture are affected.

For most people with cerebral palsy the causes are unknown. There is no known cure.

Children with cerebral palsy are likely to have other impairments in addition to their motor disability. 60% have a speech impairment; 50% have an intellectual impairment; 35% have epilepsy; 37% have a vision impairment and 12% have a hearing impairment.

CEREBRAL PALSY ALLIANCE

Cerebral Palsy Alliance builds futures for children and adults with cerebral palsy in NSW and the ACT.

The organisation was founded under the name The Spastic Centre on 30 January 1945 by a concerned group of 25 parents of children with cerebral palsy, led by Neil and Audrie McLeod.

Cerebral Palsy Alliance provides vital services and equipment for more than 4,000 children and adults each year. It also funds research for cerebral palsy prevention, cure and intervention.
every 15hrs
an Australian child is
born with cerebral palsy

1 in 400
Australian babies is diagnosed with
cerebral palsy. There is no known cure.

3 out of 5
have a speech impairment

1 in 10
has a severe vision impairment

1 in 4
has epilepsy

1 in 2
has an intellectual impairment

1 in 3
is unable to walk

3 out of 4
experience pain

1.47 billion
is an estimated expenditure of
per year to the Australian economy.

$43,431
is estimated to cost an average of
per person per year.

About us / At a Glance
Cerebral Palsy Alliance is committed to
enhancing the lives of people with cerebral palsy
and enabling their full participation in
the community.

Cerebral Palsy Alliance:
- was founded in 1945 by a group of parents
  who sought a better life for their children with
cerebral palsy
- was the first organisation of its type in the world
- provides direct services to more than 4000
  children, teenagers and adults each year
- provides services from 55 sites in NSW and ACT
  and employs over 1000 people
- works with the community to improve
  inclusiveness for people with cerebral palsy
- has a strong tradition of support from individual
  and corporate volunteers
- funds cerebral palsy research through a
  Research Foundation
- relies on your generosity to raise funds for services
  and research.

Our Values
integrity
We are ethical, compassionate and fair; and we deliver
what we promise.

passion
We are inspired by challenges and
enthusiastic about
the future.

efficiency
We create, adopt
and strive for the
very best.

respect
We put people
first and respect
diversity.

courage
We act bravely and
with conviction.

34,000 people
are living with CP in Australia.
17 million worldwide.

* Access economics 2007
Building Futures Message from the President & CEO

Building Futures – a phrase which not only represents our mission to people living with cerebral palsy but is the spirit of how our organisation has grown, why our staff come to work every day and encompasses our core values of integrity, respect, courage, excellence and passion in all that we do.

The past year portrays building futures in a very tangible way from the opening of several new buildings to the launch of new initiatives to support families in ways they have told us best meet their needs.

Cerebral Palsy Alliance has a long and proud history of supporting children and adults with cerebral palsy, and this Annual Report brings to you some of the highlights of our achievements, our challenges over the past year and a taste of what is to come.

At the time of going to print, we are welcoming back our elite paralympians from London, thirty-seven of whom are living with cerebral palsy. The Australian Paralympic team’s tally of 85 medals was the best in 16 years and included a staggering 32 gold. We are enormously proud of their achievements and especially of the athletes who have a direct connection with Cerebral Palsy Alliance.

Alex Green, a Cerebral Palsy Alliance board member, won a bronze medal in the discus. Congratulations, Alex and Katherine! Jacqueline Freney, who was the guest of honour at our Alstonville opening, won an amazing 8 gold medals in swimming events: 100m backstroke, 100m freestyle, 200m individual medley, 400m freestyle, 4x100m freestyle relay, 4x100m medley relay, 50m freestyle and 50m butterfly. Remarkable!

These paralympians provide us all with a great amount of pride, inspiration and motivation. Their achievements are especially important in confirming to children in therapy that the future is bright and has endless possibilities.

Sport has a huge influence in the lives of our families and clients and Boccia is starting to make an appearance in schools across NSW. The Boccia Knockout Competition is a joint project between Boccia NSW, the NSW Department of Education and Communities and Cerebral Palsy Alliance.

The main aims of the competition are to enable students with disabilities to represent their schools, enjoy a day of competitive sport, experience Boccia and maybe even represent state and national representative teams.

The project is receiving great feedback from team members, schools and families. Just Like You! is another initiative that has been taking primary school children on a journey of what it is like to have a disability, and to learn that people living with cerebral palsy and other disabilities are just like them. The program team and its wonderful volunteers have delivered presentations to nearly 20,000 primary school children since 2006 and this year visited their 100th school.

In the past year Building Futures has been reflected in the hype of building activity that we have undertaken in different parts of NSW to ensure that our clients and our staff are not only provided with the best services and support programs, but the best in building location, design and facilities that are safe, welcoming, functional and flexible.

We opened our new purpose-designed and purpose-built therapy and family centre in Alstonville on the far north coast and also celebrated the opening of our new, state-of-the-art therapy centre at Tuggerah. These were made possible by the extraordinary generosity of the Sargents Peis Charitable Foundation in providing money not only to build the centres but purchase beds as well. We also did a major upgrade and renovations to the Captain Ron Patrick Hydrotherapy Pool.

The year culminated on a high note with the official opening of our world class Allambie Heights complex. Its state-of-the-art therapy rooms, fully equipped gym and outdoor sports court, parent lounges, innovation space, training and development areas and space for our corporate service staff will ensure Cerebral Palsy Alliance remains a world leader in support for people with cerebral palsy and their families. With the opportunity to build this excellent complex at Allambie Heights, Cerebral Palsy Alliance is now well placed to be able to reach and increase its capacity to support the sector through training and professional development programs.

Without the help of our extremely generous supporters in raising over $3 million for the ‘Raise the Roof’ campaign, we would not have dared dream that we could build such a wonderful and comprehensive complex for our families and staff.

Several other building projects should be completed next year and these include our new Armidale centre, courtesy of another generous donation from Sargents; the Nanawave re-housing project; and a major extension to our Fairfield City Marconi Centre, in partnership with the University of Western Sydney, which will house a purpose-built, modern student unit.

As well, we plan to complete the northern Sydney suite of service centres by upgrading our Community Access centres for adults. Through a combination of relocation and renovation, we are aiming to improve both the amenity and comfort of service centres for our clients.

Our wonderful donors and supporters play an important role in our building projects and with their help we make certain that our clients and their families feel welcome and valued and that our amazing staff members can work in surroundings that encourage service excellence and respect their vital roles.

Planning is essential for people living with cerebral palsy. From a child’s earliest years, families work with our staff on their individual family service plans. We help families plan for transition to pre-school, and then school, options after school, equipment, modifications at home – and the list goes on.

In this Annual Report we feature five inspiring people who have experienced these challenges and look at how they are preparing for the future and the uncertainty that this can hold. Discussions about planning for the future can, for some, seem futile when there is no certainty of government funding, or options for their children as they grow older. This aspect can be extremely distressing for parents and is one of the reasons why Cerebral Palsy Alliance has been very passionate and open about supporting and promoting a National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

As the Australian Government prepares to launch the first stage of an NDIS in the Hunter region, which will commence during 2013-2014, we will continue to work closely with the NSW Government, through the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care, to deliver services to address the immediate needs of individuals and families. We are also establishing parent consultation groups to ensure that we fully understand our families’ needs and expectations from the new
In 2010 Ethan, my gorgeous 6½ year old son passed away. Ethan was just 14 months old when we first came in contact with Cerebral Palsy Alliance and since that day, to after he passed away, we have always received enormous support. Simply put, we could not have survived without this organisation. Ethan had the most severe type of cerebral palsy and could not do anything at all for himself. He couldn’t communicate, he couldn’t hear, he couldn’t use his hands or feet or hold his head up at all. He couldn’t sit, he couldn’t lie down, he couldn’t eat or drink. Yet he was the most intelligent child I have known.

Cerebral Palsy Alliance helped us with every aspect of Ethan’s daily life. Ethan had a huge amount of equipment and they helped us pay for many items he needed, including a $33,000 eye gaze computer so he could communicate with us. The biggest thing they gave us though, was a future – they helped us build a future for Ethan so he led a good life.

Shannon Clough
Our Board of Directors continue to invest their time and expertise in the stewardship of our organisation.

MARELLE THORNTON AM
President
Dip Teach, FAICD
Marelle has been a member of the Board of Directors since October 1983. She is the President of Cerebral Palsy Alliance, Chairman of the Board of Directors, Chairman of the Nominations and Governance Committee, and a member of the Finance and Audit Committee, the Human Resources Committee, Community Relations, Fundraising and Marketing Committee, and the Services Committee. Marelle is a retired primary school teacher.

MARK BRYANT OAM
Vice President
MA, FCA, MAICD
Mark has been a member of the Board of Directors since December 1997. He is the Vice-President of Cerebral Palsy Alliance, Chairman of the Finance and Audit Committee and a member of the Community Relations, Fundraising and Marketing Committee, and the Nominations and Governance Committee. Mark has over 35 years of experience in public accounting.

CAIN BECKETT
Director
BCom, MInst, FAICD
Cain has been a member of the Board of Directors since November 2003. He is a member of the Finance and Audit Committee, the Services Committee, and the Nominations and Governance Committee. In July 2011 Cain was appointed Chairman of the Disability Council of NSW for a four year term. He is a member of the senior leadership team of Perpetual Corporate Trust, and for over 13 years prior to this he was a successful management and technology consultant. Cain also serves as a board representative to the Enterprise Risk Management Committee. Mark has over 35 years of experience in public accounting.

DR NEROLI BEST
Director
MBBS, FANZCA, MAICD
Neroli has been a member of the Board of Directors since June 1994. She is the Chairman of the Research Committee, and a member of the Ethics Committee and the Nominations Committee. Neroli is a medical practitioner specialising in anaesthesiology and holds appointments at Royal North Shore, Mater Misericordiae and North Shore Private Hospitals.

ANDREW BUCHANAN
Director
PSA, MAICD, AICWM
Andrew has been a member of the Board of Directors since August 2010. He is the Chairman of the Ethics Committee, and a member of the Research Committee and the Community Relations, Fundraising and Marketing Committee. Andrew recently retired after eight years as, Chairman of the Disability Council of NSW, the official disability advisory body to the NSW Government. He has 40 years experience in broadcasting, communications and media, having spent his career at the ABC, and now operates his own communications and media consultancy All Communicates, and manages his winery at Queens Pinch Vineyard in Mudgee.

ALEXANDRA GREEN
Director
FAICD
Alex has been a member of the Board of Directors since August 2011. She is a Mechanical Engineering student at the University of New South Wales and aims to complete her undergraduate degree by the end of 2013. Alex is also an Australian representative for both Para-cycling and adaptive rowing. She is the 2012 World Champion for the C4 Individual Pursuit and achieved a bronze medal at the 2012 London Paralympic Games.

ROBERT (BOB) G. MILLER
Director
MAICD
Robert has been a member of the Board of Directors since May 1999. He is a member of the Community Relations, Fundraising and Marketing Committee, the Services Committee, the Finance and Audit Committee Committee. He also serves as a board representative to the Enterprise Risk Management Committee. Robert is the Principal of Australia Street Consulting Pty Ltd where he advises the automotive industry, advertising agencies, telecommunications companies and others on marketing. He was previously General Manager - Marketing, Toyota Australia for 15 years. Robert is an Adjunct Professor, teaching postgraduate students in Macquarie University’s Faculty of Business and Economics, and the Macquarie Graduate School of Management.

MICHIELE NOORT
Director
RLI, CCC, MHSc, Crt Public Sector Management, MAICD
Michelle has been a member of the Board of Directors since February 2011. She is Chairman of the Services Committee, and a member of the Finance and Audit Committee. Michelle has worked in the public health sector for over 30 years across NSW, Victoria and South Australia. She is currently the Director of Operations, Planning and Performance Ilawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District.

JOHN SHINTRAS
Director
MAICD
John has been a member of the Board of Directors since December 2002. He is the Chairman of the Human Resources Committee, and a board representative on the Enterprise Risk Management Committee. John is the Chief Executive Officer of the Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District.

BRIAN WILLIAMSON
Director
MAICD
Brian has been a member of the Board of Directors since August 2009. He is Chairman of the Community Relations, Fundraising and Marketing Committee, and a member of the Finance and Audit Committee. Brian is a solicitor and one of Australia’s leading media communications agencies. In addition he is A Board member on several Industry Boards and Committees across the media and marketing sector.

ANNUAL REPORT 2012

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Financial Summary

Where the money comes from - 2012

- 63.8% Government
- 23.3% Fundraising
- 8.2% Sales of goods and services
- 4.7% Investment and other

Where the money goes - 2012

- 28.9% Individual and Family Support
- 22.9% Accommodation and Respite
- 8.3% Employment Services
- 7.7% Community Access Services
- 4.9% Community Education and Information
- 2.6% Technology Services
- 1.1% Other
- 2.4% Fundraising expenses
- 2.4% Research grants and expenses
- 2.4% Cost of goods sold

Where the money comes from – 3 year trend

- Government
- Fundraising and bequests
- Goods and services
- Investment and other

Where the money goes – 3 year trend

- Individual and Family Support
- Accommodation and Respite
- Employment Services
- Community Access Services
- Community Education and Information
- Technology Services
- Other
- Fundraising expenses
- Research grants and expenses
- Cost of goods sold

For comprehensive details on Cerebral Palsy Alliance’s financial report please visit cerebralpalsy.org.au
Our Major Service Sites

Services for people living with cerebral palsy

INDIVIDUAL AND FAMILY SUPPORT (cont’d)

Dental Clinic
Dental service for children, teenagers and adults who, because of the severity of their disability, cannot access dentists in the community.

Conductive Education
A centre-based, holistic educational program for children and teenagers.

Emerge Program
A leadership and work readiness program for young adults. This includes a mentoring program to help build self-esteem, confidence and resilience in young people.

Leisure/Recreation Links
Arts, sport, recreation and leisure activities for teenagers and young adults.

Intensive Family Support Options (IFSO)
An intensive, flexible, in-home support for families of a child or teenager with a disability who are experiencing a high level of stress.

MyTime
Groups for parents, grandparents or anyone caring for a child with a disability, developmental delay or chronic illness. The groups give parents the chance to socialise and share ideas with others in a caring role.

Parent to Parent
A peer support program that connects parents of children with a disability to trained parent volunteers.

ACCOMMODATION AND RESPITE

Community Living Program
Long term accommodation support for adults.

Flexible Respite
Individually tailored respite programs to give families a break and their child a chance to enjoy activities of interest. Programs include Time Out, Older Carer Respite and Relax and Recharge.

Centre-based Respite - Children
Planned short stays for children and teenagers at Dee Why and Castle Hill.

Centre-based Respite - Adults
Planned short respite stays for adults at Chester Hill and St Ives.

EMLOYMENT SERVICES

Packforce
A packing, assembly and mail fulfilment business that offers supported employment for people with a disability.

Sydney Employment Development Service
A program to assist people with a range of disabilities to prepare for work and to find employment opportunities and be supported in their work roles.

COMMUNITY ACCESS SERVICES

Community Access Services (CAS)
Flexible lifestyle programs for adults with severe and multiple disabilities. CAS programs vary and each one reflects the interests of their members.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND INFORMATION

Just Like You! Disability Awareness Program
A disability awareness program for primary school children, designed to build understanding of disability. The program is mapped to the NSW school curriculum - Stage 3 (Years 5 and 6).

International Program
A training and consultancy service which supports Australia’s international aid efforts to improve the lives of people with a disability in the Asia Pacific region.

TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

TASC
A specialist service for people with a disability who have complex needs for technology, seating and mobility. TASC Consultative Services offers assessment and training, while TASC Equipment Services manufactures custom seating.

MAJOR SITES IN SYDNEY REGION:
Allambie Heights
Chatswood
Frenchs Forest
Kingswood
Parramatta
Penrith
Prairiewood
Ryde
Wetherill Park
Person Centred Approach

‘The therapy team provides an excellent support base for parents/carers to think through what their family may need to help improve their quality of life.’

Cerebral Palsy Alliance is committed to delivering services to people with a disability and their families that are proactive, holistic, future-focused and most importantly, person centred. In order to achieve this Cerebral Palsy Alliance has adopted a family centred approach to providing services that we call our Life Needs Approach. The Life Needs Approach underpins all of our services. This approach is based on national and international research and acknowledges the complex interactions between the person and their community.

This means that we are:

Person Centred - we know that the person with a disability is the expert in their own lives, so we aim to guide and support - not to direct. This also means that we place a great emphasis on collaboration and partnerships with our clients.

Family Centred - we recognise that each family is unique and that the family is the constant in a child’s life. We therefore work very closely with the family as they are the experts on the child’s abilities and needs.

Strengths based - we focus on strengths rather than problems and work on the assumption that people have the strengths and resources to pursue their goals and aspirations.

Solution focused - we focus on what a person wants to achieve rather than the problems or difficulties they are facing and support people to develop strategies to achieve positive change, now and in the future.

This approach begins from a person’s first connection with Cerebral Palsy Alliance and continues throughout their partnership with us.

For Suzan and Scott Griffin and their daughter Milla (5 years old) who lives with cerebral palsy, the Life Needs Approach helped the family think about the goals they wanted to achieve with Milla, while providing guidance on implementing their plan to achieve these goals.

In 2011, the Griffin’s faced a busy year as they began preparing Milla for pre-school, a significant milestone for a little girl who cannot move around independently or communicate without support.

Once the family selected a pre-school, they then worked closely with Milla’s LifePoints team to develop a transition plan that would meet the needs of everyone in Milla’s ‘universe’ – her family, her school and her friends.

The plan included therapists presenting to teachers before Milla started school to help them understand cerebral palsy and its impact on Milla. Since starting school, Milla’s early educator and occupational therapist have also been liaising with the school to ensure she is comfortable, has the equipment she needs and can participate in learning activities in the classroom and during playtime with her friends.

‘It was a combined team effort where her therapists worked together and listened to our needs to help us achieve what was important to us and Milla,’ says Suzan.

‘The therapy team provides an excellent support base for parents/carers to think through what their family may need to help improve their quality of life. Milla is a very social and bubbly little girl, so improving her communication skills to help her interact with friends and family was very important to us. Milla’s therapy team guided us on various options and together we were able to determine the best communication device for her,’ said Scott.

The role of the therapist is to listen to what the family wants - which can change over time - share appropriate information and options based on best available evidence and support families to make decisions. By working together during goal setting and assessment phases, we can then tailor a service that meets the needs of everyone involved.
We wanted to thank the people at Cerebral Palsy Alliance at Maitland. The team of professionals located here is incredible. Their help & caring of our daughter Georgia is extraordinary.

Recently we were reviewing our “client plan” and reviewed the goals set in the and the “life plan”. It was gratifying to see the goals had been met in the last 12 months or so. While the process itself was quite stressful & emotional it really laid out our path for services over the period.

The team works extremely well with our school (a very small school in a regional area with limited resources and we have seen Georgia progress to a little girl who is now able to use her computer and is almost completely integrated with her peers.

Communication is her next big challenge.

Yours sincerely

Ivy Stevenson
When our son Arran was two months old, we noticed he was missing the developmental milestones we saw his older sister, Roxy achieve at the same age. By the age of just four months, our paediatrician was talking about cerebral palsy, so when we received the formal diagnosis when Arran was 13 months old, it didn’t come as a surprise.

Despite his early diagnosis, it still took time for our family to adjust to the reality of raising a child with a disability. Arran has mixed dystonic and spastic quadriplegia which affects his legs and arms. The dystonia also makes his core muscles weak, so he finds standing, sitting and swallowing difficult.

But any fears Richard and I had about the future were put aside as we focused on giving our little boy the best possible start in life. And to help us do this, we turned to the therapists at Cerebral Palsy Alliance.

Right from the start, Arran’s therapy team has given us the support we needed. It was hard to see Arran just lying down when other children were up and about. But since working with his therapists, we feel so positive about Arran’s future - they have an amazing ability to make you believe that everything will be OK.

Arran’s therapists are teaching him how to sit, walk, and feed himself - all with the help of special equipment - as well as helping him attend the same day care as his big sister.

At this age, our goal is for Arran to walk as independently as possible. Now, after 12 months since the using a Kaye Walker, I can see Arran walking down the street like every other three year old – the joy, relief and gratitude Richard and I feel to see our son be independently mobile is incredible.

Finding out that your child has cerebral palsy (CP) leaves many parents struggling with a range of difficult emotions and it will almost certainly present to them many unexpected challenges. This is when most families begin their relationship with Cerebral Palsy Alliance, in those first few months after diagnosis, when families are looking for answers. They are searching to understand answers to many questions: What now? What does the future look like? What therapy will my child need? How often? How much? Some families just need to talk to someone about how they are feeling, or to share experiences with other families.

Arran Keith first came to Cerebral Palsy Alliance shortly after her son Arran was diagnosed. Karen tells the story of how with the help of Cerebral Palsy Alliance and our generous donors, the future for them is now bright and positive.

Cerebral Palsy Alliance has changed our lives in such a positive way. They recognise there’s no ‘one size fits all’ solution to cerebral palsy.
Here is Hannah’s story
Can you imagine leaving school and moving to another one with only two people that you know?
Well that’s what I had to do back in 2008 when I started at a primary school I’d never even heard of before.
The welcome by teachers and the other kids was very warm, and almost immediately, I felt a sense of acceptance, as if I actually belonged there. This feeling of belonging lasted a year during which I competed in the Athletics and Cross Country Carnival, appeared in the end of year concert, and created an artwork for the annual Art Show.

In Year 4, I had a fall out with my best friend. To this day, I’m not sure why it happened or whether it had anything to do with my cerebral palsy. The following 12 months weren’t much fun. I often felt confused and hurt, and really didn’t want to be at school. But, aside from that, primary school has been great. I mean, I’ve basically done everything that other students would do, even school camp! I know this might sound a bit cliche, but with only one term to go before I embark on my next big adventure (a.k.a high school), I’ve been looking back wondering whether I would change it.

Some bits I would definitely trade (like Year 4), but others I wouldn’t change for the world (school camp and meeting so many great people).

Throughout my school life, I’ve often been the only person at school or the only person the other kids know who has a disability. Sometimes being in a wheelchair was hard because often when I met other kids for the first time, all they could see was my wheelchair, and only the wheelchair. They weren’t really sure how to react to me, and it felt like they didn’t think I could be the same as them. But, once they got to know me, they could see I liked to do the same things as them – it’s just that I had to do them in a different way.

I have a great group of friends who are heaps of fun to be with both in the classroom and out in the playground. I don’t like to often ask for help, but my friends seem to know when I need it without making a big deal of it. For instance, they’ll help me get my things out of my school bag or help me pack away. They may also help me out if they see me struggling to keep up in the playground.

There will always be kids who are mean to anyone who is different. But if that ever happened to me, I’d just try and stay away from those people.

If you’re thinking primary school sounds scary, don’t worry. The best advice I could give you would be to get involved and don’t stand back watching everyone else participating. Show your friends that kids with a disability are just like them, and most of all enjoy school life.

Hannah Diviney

The Primary Years

Most children with cerebral palsy will attend a mainstream school and participate in a regular classroom.

For the family, this requires early planning and consultation and collaboration with many people. This transition to school can be extremely challenging and present many differing emotions for the family. Cerebral Palsy Alliance supports and helps plan this with everyone involved, to make the start of school as smooth as possible.
During the school years, children learn how to manage their emotions and behaviour and gain experience adapting to different social situations. Children develop a positive and resilient outlook on life by being allowed opportunities to ‘have a go’, make mistakes and learn from the consequences of their actions.

Having a go and resilience were the trademark of Luke Woodward’s campaign when he decided to run for school captain.

Luke Woodward has cerebral palsy and last year was elected school captain at Griffith North Public School.
Life After School

Meaningful activity and making a contribution are important to everyone. It means a sense of belonging.

Cerebral Palsy Alliance offers a range of services designed to provide adults with opportunities and options in the years after school. These services provide vocational training, work placement services and lifestyle programs for people who have severe and multiple disabilities.

PACKFORCE
Packforce is a packaging, assembly and mail fulfilment business that offers supported employment for people with a disability. Packforce has been in operation for over 50 years and has two sites in metropolitan Sydney - Frenchs Forest and Wetherill Park.

SEDS
Sydney Employment Development Service (SEDS) is a job placement and training agency for people with a disability. SEDS has over 20 years experience, working in partnership with employers to successfully recruit and support employees with a disability. Our candidates have a diverse range of skills suited to retail, trade, manufacturing and professional services. SEDS is funded through the Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR).

COMMUNITY ACCESS SERVICES
Community Access Services (CAS) are lifestyle programs for people who have severe and multiple disabilities. They are community-based services, which offer a valuable alternative to employment. The CAS programs are person centered and aim to reflect the interests and goals of their members. Cerebral Palsy Alliance runs several CAS programs across Sydney and one in Newcastle. Participants are actively involved in the management of the CAS at all levels - they are supported to plan their own activities, share in staff selection, reviews and appraisals and join committees and working groups, both within the individual service and within the community.
Inspiring Stories Life After School

‘When I was in Year 9, I began to think about what I’d like to do after school... I joined the Sydney Employment Development Service (SEDS) ... and they helped me secure my first traineeship’. Ben Hosking

The following stories have appeared in i am magazine in the last year and tell the first hand accounts of what Ben, Sinead and Monique have been doing since the school bell rang for the last time. They are all living with cerebral palsy.

TRAINEESHIP
Ben Hosking

When I was in Year 9, I began to think about what I’d like to do after school. Doing something with the law interested me because I enjoyed legal studies at school. However, by the time I left, I wanted a break from study and was keen to start working instead. My initial goal was to undertake a business traineeship in a large corporate company. I joined the Sydney Employment Development Service (SEDS) Transition To Work (TTW) program, and they helped me secure my first traineeship with the Reserve Bank. I then switched over to their Open Employment Program, which taught me communication skills, how to write a resume, office etiquette and how to prioritise tasks.

SEDS have also mentored me on coping with challenges in the workplace and employer expectations. They showed me how to look for jobs in line with my skills and interests, and did some ‘mock’ interviews with me as part of my job search preparation.

For the past 18 months, I’ve been working as a Law Clerk in the city. My role involves filing legal documents for the courts and other government departments as well as general office duties. It’s a job that involves getting out of the office and meeting lots of different people, which I enjoy. I’m not sure if it’s a career I want to do for the rest of my life, but I know that I have more experience, confidence and a broader skill set to try other job options down the track.

COMMUNITY ACCESS SERVICES (CAS)
Sinead O’Brien and Mum, Ethna

I started to consider Sinead’s post school options at the start of her final year in high school. I was told that Cerebral Palsy Alliance ran the best community access service, so we checked it out. They run both on site and off site programs, and it was just what Sinead needed – a combination of outings and on site programs. Prior to starting, I introduced Sinead to the staff. The staff are well trained and take great care of Sinead. The CAS was perfect for us, especially because they organise an annual camp each year.

Sinead also has a vision impairment, so she enjoys spending time in the sensory room. She also enjoys the music therapy program which is well organised with qualified staff.

SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT
Monique Swan, Packforce

My parents were referred to the SEDS TTW program when I was in Year 11. While I was doing the program, SEDS suggested I consider Packforce as an employment possibility. I’ve now been with Packforce for three and a half years. I enjoy the job, particularly the variety of tasks because they’re different each day. The staff are great and are always willing to help.

Packforce provides employees with training opportunities and skills development to prepare some individuals for open employment (e.g. forklift driver’s licence). Potential employees are required to complete a Job Capacity Assessment from Centrelink to identify their suitability. Employees must have a permanent disability and require ongoing support to maintain their employment.
Inspiring Stories  
**Time to Reminisce**

‘I have no regrets being a person living with a disability.’ Adrian Lynch

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I am 66 years old and have cerebral palsy. Cerebral Palsy Alliance, what used to be known as The Spastic Centre, has been a part of my life for as long as I can remember. It has made me who I am today. I was just three years old when I began going to The Spastic Centre at Mosman in 1947. It was a long trip to get there from our home at Bossley Park in Sydney’s south west, where my mum and dad ran a poultry farm. In 1954, we moved to another poultry farm in Carlingford so The Spastic Centre bus could come and pick me up at our front door each day. I feel really privileged to have had such marvellous and dedicated parents who always had my best interests at heart.

I didn’t walk until I was nine years old. I can still remember the therapists who worked with me and helped me to take my first steps. In 1969, when I was 18 years old, I began my working life as a supported employee with The Spastic Centre. When co-founder of The Spastic Centre Neil McLeod learnt that a factory employing able-bodied people doing assembly work for telephone exchange relay sets was closing down, he took over the equipment and some of the staff and set up Centre Industries. His vision was to provide supported employment for people with cerebral palsy. I didn’t know it then, but my first day on the job at Centre Industries was the beginning of a working life that would last nearly half a century. When I started at Centre Industries, I worked the hand presses, lathes, and power presses to make telephone exchange boxes for Telecom. I learnt my trade from a young John Morgan, who was a role model for me in teaching me how to operate a lathe and work with able-bodied people. John went on to become a longstanding Board member with Cerebral Palsy Alliance.

I remember working at Centre Industries on 21 July 1969 when man first set foot on the moon. It was around 1pm, and we watched the momentous occasion on a small TV in the store office. Over the next few decades, I worked at Centre Industries (which later became Business Services and now Packforce) at Allambie Heights, North Rocks, Granville, Castle Hill and Wetherill Park. When I first started at Wetherill Park in 2003, I was still living in a group home at Narraweena on Sydney’s northern beaches. It was great because I was able to keep in touch with many of my life-long friends from my early days at Centre Industries. However, I had to travel 90 minutes each way to get to and from work. It was tiring but well worth it! Midway through last year I made two of the biggest changes in my life so far.

The first change was moving from my longstanding home on the northern beaches to Cerebral Palsy Alliance’s new supported accommodation facility at Granville. I now enjoy the privacy of my own unit, but also the reassurance that help is available 24 hours a day if needed. My second big change was retiring from Packforce after 48 years’ service. I didn’t realise it, but I had become Packforce’s longest standing employee.

Although I miss my work and the many friends I made over the years, I am enjoying my retirement. I’ve started writing a book about my life and plan to do some volunteer work at Parramatta. I really want to give something back to the community as I’ve received so much help over my life.

I have no regrets being a person living with a disability. I have interests in music, sports and current affairs, and a wide circle of friends. I’m really grateful for the support that Cerebral Palsy Alliance has given me over my life - from those early days of therapy and my years working at Centre Industries and Packforce, to the assistance given to enable me to live as independently as possible. I’ve learnt so much and really value the skills, independence and friendships that I’ve developed. I consider Cerebral Palsy Alliance to be part of my family. It has always been there for me, and always will be.’

Adrian Lynch
Cerebral Palsy Alliance has a three year strategic plan cycle. This ensures our organisation builds on our achievements, addresses our challenges, and outlines what priorities we will pursue. The key drivers for the 2010-2013 Strategic Plan are:

- **Economic responsiveness**
- Adjusting to variances in the marketplace and global finances
- **Workforce development**
- Attracting and retaining staff
- **Digital technology**
- Keeping up to date with technologies and the communication expectations of our stakeholders
- **National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)**
- Preparing for the changing landscape in funding and structuring our organisation accordingly
- **Research discoveries**
- Supporting and promoting research aimed at reducing the prevalence and severity of cerebral palsy

**The Challenges Ahead**

The 2013-2016 Strategic Plan will reflect challenging issues including:

- **Our reach**
  - Our current service sites at Ryde, Prairiewood, Penrith, Maitland and Orange are in areas where significant population growth is expected and are likely to experience high demand for services.
  - Other areas including Blacktown, the Hills District, Campbelltown/Camden also have rapidly expanding populations and are not well served by the location of our current service sites.

- **Our service models**
  - Under new funding arrangements, a consumer driven model of service provision will require greater flexibility in how, where and when we provide services to meet customer demand.

- **Our support systems**
  - Infrastructure supports and services will need to be streamlined to ensure cost efficiencies are maximised in the delivery of services to clients and families.

- **Our financial capacity**
  - Maintaining sustainable income streams as our national markets respond to the global financial situation.

The following table highlights our progress over the past 12 months.

### **Key Goal 1**

**World-class services that connect and engage people with their communities**

**Pg 16-17/34-35**

**Outcomes**

1. Service models that foster client/family involvement in planning, choice and funding arrangements
2. Improved service timelines and interactions for therapy and family support
3. Enhanced digital solutions to inform, connect and engage
4. Strengthened individual and family wellbeing and resilience
5. Planned and delivered support for complex clients
6. Appropriate equipment at the right time
7. Cultural competence in the delivery of services to diverse communities

**Significant Progress Made On**

- Embedding the Life Needs Approach
- CP Check-Up program for children
- Client and family consultation forums
- Adoption of digital applications
- Shortening wait times for equipment through a pre-purchase scheme in partnership with Enable NSW
- Strengthening community partnerships through Aboriginal consultation forums
- Responding to personalised funding arrangements for adult clients with a pilot program
- Expanding opportunities for clients in sports and the performing arts

### **Key Goal 2**

**A robust and agile organisation**

**Pg 36-37/42-43**

**Outcomes**

1. Right people in the right place at the right time
2. Financial systems that lift our performance, efficiency and capacity
3. Information systems that lift our performance, efficiency and capacity
4. Sustainable and profitable fundraising programs
5. Greater efficiency in non-core capabilities

**Significant Progress Made On**

- Traineeship programs for new recruits
- Leadership development forums for managers and emerging leaders
- Service restructures
- “September” as a national and international mass participation event
- Internal audit function to improve efficiencies
- Innovation Hub for staff

### **Key Goal 3**

**Discoveries in prevention, cure and intervention**

**Pg 44-45**

**Outcomes**

1. International leadership in the cerebral palsy research community
2. Good business practices and integrated infrastructure support
3. A strong and focused Research Institute

**Significant Progress Made On**

- The NDIS Campaign through engagement in Disability and hosting community events and participation in community rallies
- Contribution to the Productivity Commission’s report on NDIS and involvement in various NDIS working parties
- New campus rebuilt at Allambie Heights

### **Key Goal 4**

**Positioning for the longer term.**

**Pg 46-47**

**Outcomes**

1. A National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) that benefits clients and families
2. Maximised utilisation of Allambie Heights site
3. Growth and diversification opportunities
4. Global efforts that shape local solutions
5. Best practice in corporate governance
6. Greater awareness and understanding of cerebral palsy and its impact
7. Well respected and recognised cerebral palsy brands
Key Goal 1
World-class services that connect and engage people with their communities

Cerebral Palsy Alliance is here to make a difference in people’s lives. We want to offer the best service and customer experience for our clients and families.

At Cerebral Palsy Alliance we pride ourselves on our strong working partnerships with our clients and their families. Our partnerships are strong due to our commitment in regularly evaluating our services to meet client needs, looking at our clients’ needs throughout their life, not just the here and now; and having committed, experienced people and centred staff.

Embedding Life Needs Approach
Cerebral Palsy Alliance is committed to delivering services to people with a disability and their families that are proactive, holistic, and future focused. To help us do this, we consider all areas of life in which people with a disability and their families may wish to receive support – we call this our Life Needs Approach.

CP Check Up
In the past 12 months Cerebral Palsy Alliance has invited families whose child was born on or after January 1, 2008 to participate in a program called the CP Check Up. The program monitors development across a range of areas including fine and gross motor skills, communication, nutrition, cognition, learning and family wellbeing. Regular check-ups provide opportunities for staff to work with families to advise on the best response to keep the child and family’s overall wellbeing ‘on track’. To date, more than 80 families throughout NSW have participated in CP Check Up. The program is based on a successful Swedish program which has drastically reduced the need for orthopaedic surgery, a significant issue for children with cerebral palsy. No other program around the world has been able to achieve results even close to this. It represents a significant breakthrough for children with cerebral palsy and their families.

Parent and Client Consultation Forums
Consultation groups have been set up with clients and families to hear and understand the issues and to encourage and to share information with us and with others. Cerebral Palsy Alliance takes a collaborative approach to ensuring the information we gather and share with individuals, health professionals, community workers and the wider community is credible and useful.

Adoption of Digital Applications
In response to the overwhelming interest by clients, families and staff in the use of the iPad for people with disabilities, Cerebral Palsy Alliance has established the ‘iPad Champions’ group. This has resulted in the use of iPad apps in many areas of clients’ lives. WebEx was piloted across our rural and metro sites for staff mentoring, training and meetings. It can be used from any computer or any other Wi-Fi or 3G-enabled mobile device greatly increasing our efficiencies.

Expanding opportunities for clients in sports and the performing arts
The NSW Boccia squad and elite athletes shone in competition and many more young people were inspired to become involved. Our performance of Circumspecto at the Sydney Opera House drew wide acclaim and launched the talented members of our Community Access Services onto the public stage.
Key Goal 2
A robust and agile organisation

Cerebral Palsy Alliance is dedicated in its efforts to have the right people in the right places at the right time.

An organisation which is robust must be flexible in meeting the changing needs of its clients. It must ensure its longevity for future generations.

Cerebral Palsy Alliance is dedicated in its efforts to have the right people in the right places at the right time. In doing so we need to make sure that we have systems in place to support their professional development and growth. For financial stability, we need sufficient resources to invest for future growth.

Over the past year, we have developed programs that support learning, increase efficiency in our financial reporting, provide sustainable and profitable fundraising and produce greater efficiencies in our non-core capabilities.

Traineeship program for new recruits
Over the past year we offered traineeship programs to many students and new recruits to allow them to work and study at the same time. Students and employees study a Certificate III or Certificate IV nationally recognised training program.

Leadership development
Leadership forums have been established across the organisation to support and grow knowledge and networks for managers/leaders. The development program is underpinned by:
- a strong peer support network for managers
- active facilitation of relevant knowledge and skill development

Service restructures
Early this year Cerebral Palsy Alliance undertook an audit to look at how we can better respond to the needs of our clients and be more efficient in service provision. We realised that we needed to position our staff for the longer term and be prepared for the changes that a National Disability Insurance Scheme could entail. Our client service areas have been realigned into four divisions allowing focused leadership.

Internal audit
The internal audit function within the organisation has increased, particularly looking at the effectiveness and efficiency of operations, the reliability and integrity of financial and operational information, the safeguarding of assets, and our compliance with laws, regulations and contracts. This process has identified a number of areas where efficiencies can be improved.

Innovation Hub for staff
The Innovation Hub is an online place to inspire and provoke ideas from our staff. It is proving to be extremely popular and ideas are already being shared and put into action throughout all our locations in the interest of improving services to our clients.
ANNUAL REPORT 2012

Staff - Our Most Valuable Resource

We are recognised as one of the country’s most female-friendly employers with an Employer of Choice for Women Citation in 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011.

Our staff
- Average age 42
- Total number 1062
- 22% of staff are male, 78% are female
- Average length of service 8 years
- 87% of staff work in client services, providing direct services to people living with cerebral palsy

Why are employees attracted to, and retained by Cerebral Palsy Alliance?
- We have a strong commitment to providing our employees with evidence-based, responsive professional development which includes the delivery of nationally accredited courses through our Registered Training Organisation.
- We have implemented competency-based role-family matrices to support learning and development and succession plans.
- We are recognised as one of the country’s most female-friendly employers.
- We embed our values of Integrity, Passion, Excellence, Courage and Respect in our practices every day.

The 2011 Annual Employee Climate Survey results show that employees have placed Cerebral Palsy Alliance in the top 12% of organisations with regard to job satisfaction and in the top 12% for employee engagement. Results from our staff survey have shown continuous improvement since we commenced in 2002. Areas that staff constantly rate at 90% and above are: intention to stay, perceived client satisfaction, resources, health and safety, recruitment and selection, performance appraisal and wellness.

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Pictured clockwise: Joshua Farr and Rachel Parker; Zarni Tun and Henry Fung; Pippa Graham with Bethany James.
Our Management

ROB WHITE
Chief Executive Officer
Responsible for the overall management and operation of Cerebral Palsy Alliance.
Creating, planning, implementing and integrating the strategic direction of Cerebral Palsy Alliance.

TONY CANNON
General Manager, Compliance and Company Secretary
Responsible for:
- Corporate governance
- Legal and regulatory compliance
- Board meetings and AGM

MARCUS BLEASE
General Manager, Marketing and International Services
Responsible for:
- Marketing and communications
- Web and digital production
- International programs
- Requests
- Fundraising

DEBORAH HOFFMAN
General Manager, Strategy, Research and Planning
Responsible for:
- Strategic plan development and review
- Government funding liaison & administration
- Risk and internal audit
- Internal policy and procedures

FRANK SEDMAK
General Manager, People and Culture
Responsible for:
- Volunteer and corporate engagement
- Work health, safety and injury management
- Employee relations
- Pay and benefits
- Recruitment

LIZ FOY
General Manager, Services
Responsible for:
- LifePoints – Therapy and family support, Conductive Education
- Accommodation and Community Living
- Community Access Services and Respite
- Employment Services – Sydney Employment Development Service and Packforce

PAUL HENDERSON
Chief Operating Officer
Responsible for:
- Finance
- Information technology and systems management
- Facilities management

ELISE STUMBLES
General Manager, Organisational Development
Responsible for:
- Nationally recognised and specialised training
- Professional development
- Knowledge brokerage
- Specialised consultancy
- Talent management
Sustainable & Profitable Fundraising Programs

The community and business sector have supported our mission and clients in record numbers, and with the continued investment it is hoped growth will continue into 2012/13.

We are committed to building a strong and easily identifiable brand that attracts people to support and donate to our cause. In the past year we have introduced the following initiatives to achieve this:

Step2010 & 2011
a national and international fundraising event that is open and appeals to all, no matter what age you are or where you live.

A capital campaign, ‘Raise the Roof’, which raised over $1.7 million to rebuild our Allambie Heights campus after it was destroyed by fire.

World Cup Day
an international day enabling the 17 million people around the world living with cerebral palsy to upload and vote on ideas that could change their world.

Increased volunteer base
to support events and fundraising activities, which in turn raises awareness through the corporate sector.

Strategies and Investment
to increase the number of people in the community who make a monthly donation to support those living with cerebral palsy.

Overall Fundraising
This financial year has seen positive growth at a time of great economic uncertainty. The community and business sector have supported our mission and clients in record numbers.

Our gross fundraising revenue for 2011/12 was $17.5 million. Gross fundraising revenue excluding bequest income grew by 6.2% year on year to $16.4 million.

This growth is in response to a strong investment in fundraising over the last 18 months, the capital campaign for the new Allambie Heights campus and some stand out growth in our events portfolio.

Event Fundraising
Our event portfolio has experienced outstanding support from both members of the community as well as the business sector which underpins the success of many of these activities.

Overall our events raised $3.32 million, up 30% year on year.

In July 2011 the iconic Might And Power Race Day raised a new high of $323,000 from a record crowd of 1200 people.

Our newest event, September raised a staggering $472,000 in only its second year from 3200 participants. This event is a strategic priority for growth in years to come. The Col Crawford Golf Day, now in its 28th year raised $142,000 in November 2011. 20/20 in March 2012 saw 200 participants swim, walk and kayak their way to the finish line raising $490,000 and just two weeks later our infamous CBD Golf Escap!\textsuperscript{e} raised a record $1.4 million from 350 guests who enjoyed a family oriented weekend of golf, wine tasting and entertainment in the Hunter.

Our events would not be successful without the support of some very dedicated individuals who sit on the volunteer committees for these events and our corporate partners. We thank them for their incredible generosity.

Individual Giving
Over 73,390 individuals made a donation. Strategic investments have been made in this area and over the coming years this will be the main driver of revenue growth.

None more so than our regular giving program, ‘sponsor your local therapy team’. Over 12,000 individuals collectively donated $2.4 million. Donors responded generously to our six mail appeals generating $1.9 million for our services. Our Phone programmes have proven to be the most challenging over this last year, for both cash donations and our six raffles. Collectively they have raised $2.9 million, a decline of 20% year on year. Both programs are extremely mature and growth options are limited. This is a strategic priority for FY2013.

Partnerships
Corporate, foundations and individual partnerships continue to be a source of importance in funding and volunteer resourcing for our client programs and infrastructure.

We would particularly like to thank our major partners who have all donated more than $100,000:

\begin{itemize}
  \item Sargent Pas Charitable Foundation
  \item Aristocrat
  \item Commonwealth Bank
  \item Clubs ACT
  \item Macquarie Group Foundation
  \item ING Foundation
  \item ANZ Bank
  \item Parliamentary Press Gallery
  \item Star Scientific Foundation
\end{itemize}

In addition we would like to thank the wonderful support of:\n
\begin{itemize}
  \item Black Horse Foundation, Capital Chemists, Clayton Utz, Coca-Cola Community Foundation, Community CPS, Ernst & Young, GE, Goldman Sachs, Greater Building Society and The Greater Charitable Foundation, Henkel Seaworld, HnB, Stewart Charitable Trust, James & Kirby Foundation, Myer, NAB, Newcastle Permanent Charitable Foundation, Orange and Leeton Country Councils, Perpetual, Profield Foundation, QBE Foundation, St George Foundation, Telstra Foundation, The Traders Club, Tudor Foundation, Ullark, Westfield and Wrigley Foundation
  \item ‘Raise the Roof’ Supporters
\end{itemize}

To the following supporters we are indebted for their significant contribution to our Allambie Heights campus: Dee Why RSL, @First0inity Foundation, Grevillea Foundation and Star Scientific Foundation, Marian & EH Flack Trust, Collier Charitable Foundation, Caddy Storage Systems, CBA, Forum, Initiative, AT, Lexus, Medibanks, NRMA, Satchs & Satchs, Starcom MediaVest, Swiss Re, Lexus, Sydney City Toyota, Sydney City Lexus, T-Bone, Toyota, Toyota Fleet Management, Toyota Insurance, Westfield, Tyrell’s Wine, Delbontoli Wines, Ingham Enterprises, Woodworths, John Singleton, Myer, Morrisais, Alpha Flight Services, National Australia Bank, The Pratt Foundation, Lion Co, Sydney Markets, Col Crawford Motors and the Crawford family.

Individual Donors
Many individuals contributed to our cause. We would particularly like to extend our gratitude to Mick Campbell, Eric Liddell, Andrew Tracey, Susanne Maple-Brown, Donna Woodhill, Robyn and Ray Chapman, Renate and Dr Judith Cowan, Rob and Sandy Ronson, James Hodgkinson and Anthony and Danielle Sweetman.

Research Foundation
Funding for our Research Foundation raised just over $1m in 2011/12. Since its inception we have awarded 58 grants to some of the most promising researchers both nationally and internationally. The Foundation also funds Cerebral Palsy Alliance’s own Research Institute.

Thanks must go to Avant whose contribution has been critical to the success of the Foundation, as well as Allergan, The Grevillea Foundation, Eagle Boys, Balnaves Foundation, Star Scientific Foundation, Tenix Foundation, Henry Roth, Macquarie Group Foundation and John T Reid Foundation.
Discoveries in prevention, cure and intervention

During the past year, our researchers were invited to present keynote papers at the world’s leading conferences including the Australasian and American Academies of Cerebral Palsy and Developmental Medicine and the International Child Neurology Conference.

Cerebral Palsy Alliance is committed in supporting high quality research to reduce the prevalence and severity of cerebral palsy and enhance the health and wellbeing of people with cerebral palsy.

Over the past twelve months we have been endeavouring to achieve this by being recognised as international leaders in cerebral palsy. This has resulted in many important steps being made towards finding the answers about cerebral palsy.

Ground-breaking Research

Magnesium Sulphate
One of the most exciting cerebral palsy research breakthroughs in 2011 was the confirmation of a link between magnesium sulphate and the prevention of cerebral palsy in babies born pre-term.

For babies born before 30 weeks’ gestation, researchers have found magnesium sulphate can prevent cerebral palsy in 1 in 63 cases. The therapy works by giving magnesium sulphate to pregnant women via injection within 24 hours of delivery. We now know that if magnesium sulphate is used throughout Australia, we can prevent 30-90 infants born pre-term each year from developing cerebral palsy or dying.

Researchers stumbled across the protective effect of magnesium sulphate on the brain when they noticed that very pre-term babies born following maternal pre-eclampsia (where mothers had been administered magnesium sulphate) had a lower risk of bleeding into the brain, a relatively common occurrence in very pre-term babies. Many cases of cerebral palsy in babies born pre-term are preceded by a brain bleed or injury. This led doctors to question if the protective effect was from the magnesium sulphate or the pre-eclampsia itself. From observational studies, it appeared that magnesium sulphate was responsible for the neuro-protective effect.

Generous support of $250,000 from the AVANT Innovative Research Grant to Professor Caroline Crowther (Director of the University of Adelaide’s Australian Research Centre for Health of Women and Babies) has meant that Professor Crowther and her team can continue their work in tracking the use of magnesium sulphate in Australian hospitals.

Therapeutic Hypothermia
The Research Foundation of Cerebral Palsy Alliance is supporting a study by Professor Kei Lui to evaluate the long-term results of one of the most promising interventions aimed at preventing cerebral palsy – therapeutic hypothermia. The use of induced hypothermia in babies who are born at full term but who are clearly sick – unconscious, floppy and showing characteristics of a condition known as neonatal encephalopathy, is known to confer a very high risk of cerebral palsy. Lowering the babies’ body temperature by about 2 degrees C, as part of a controlled procedure carried out under anaesthetic, can prevent cerebral palsy for about one in six of these babies.

International Recognition
During the past year, our researchers were invited to present keynote papers at the world’s leading conferences including the Australasian and American Academies of Cerebral Palsy and Developmental Medicine and the International Child Neurology Conference. Topics covered included assistive technology, risk factors for cerebral palsy in children born at full term, the Australian Cerebral Palsy Register, causal pathways and the CP Check Up program.

International Cerebral Palsy Summit
In October 2011, the world’s best minds in cerebral palsy research gathered in San Francisco for the first-ever World Cerebral Palsy Summit. The two-day Prevention and Cure Cerebral Palsy Summit was hosted by the Research Foundation of Cerebral Palsy Alliance and funded with generous support from The Balnaves Foundation. The Summit featured twenty five of the top cerebral palsy researchers from Australia, the United States, New Zealand, The Netherlands and Sweden. The summit was a resounding success with cerebral palsy experts agreeing on a roadmap for future cerebral palsy research priorities.

Movement Skills of Young Infants
Research funded by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC), the Research Foundation of Cerebral Palsy Alliance and the Balnaves Foundation, is focusing on improving the movement skills of young infants. This research will have potential long term benefits for children with cerebral palsy. The research aims to test the effectiveness of goal directed training and enriched environments for young infants with cerebral palsy.
Key Goal 4
Positioning for the longer term

Over the past 12 months Cerebral Palsy Alliance has been positioning itself to be an influential body in the changing face of disability services across Australia.

Cerebral Palsy Alliance has:
» Mobilised communities to take action and have their voice heard in support of the National Disability Insurance Scheme
» Partnered with lobby groups and empowered clients and families to have their voice heard in matters directly impacting on the future of their service provision and funding
» Engaged media and government bodies to hear our message on the importance of individualised funding
» Been a key contributor in working parties making decisions on funding models and the shaping of the multibillion dollar disability sector
» Presented a strong position to give weight to the outcomes of the Productivity Commission and subsequently represent large stakeholder groups, highlighting their needs
» Invested in capital growth across NSW and ACT in order to provide state-of-the-art facilities that will provide services to our clients well into the future.

We are proud to say that our level of readiness for the National Disability Insurance Scheme and future industry change has increased. This has been ensured by taking a hard and critical view over our operations, client demographics, financial management and leadership capabilities. We feel we are now at the right place to face the future with our clients’ needs always the focus of our goals and outcomes.
an inspiration
sitting around
laughing aloud
he is an inspiration to all
those close and far, to those small and tall
his laughter, friendship and joy
are something we enjoy from this boy
something we will cherish forever
that pushes us through the day together
we will help each other through the day, the weeks, the years
 whatever you say
he is loved by all
those close and far, those short and tall
can’t you see
he is an inspiration to all

Grace Popworth aged 12, about her brother Luke