



# The Hon Barry O'Farrell MP Premier of NSW Minister for Western Sydney

---

## MEDIA RELEASE

---

Thursday 19 May 2011

### NSW GOVT ANNOUNCES \$200,000 FOR CEREBRAL PALSY ALLIANCE

The NSW Government has today joined the campaign to help the Cerebral Palsy Alliance rebuild its headquarters, pledging \$200,000 towards its construction, NSW Premier Barry O'Farrell and Minister for Ageing and Disability Services Andrew Constance announced today.

Mr O'Farrell said the funds would go towards the reconstruction of the administration building at Allambie Heights, and the refurbishment of therapy rooms.

"In 2007, fire destroyed the site causing \$8 million in damage, hindering the services provided to children and adults with cerebral palsy," Mr O'Farrell said.

"We hope this money will help the CPA get back on its feet, helping some of the most vulnerable people in our community.

"My Government is only too happy to stand shoulder to shoulder with the CPA,' he said.

Mr Constance explained the CPA (formerly known as The Spastic Centre) has embarked on a fundraising campaign called *Raising the Roof* in a bid to get the centre at Allambie Heights fully operational once again.

An insurance payout following the fire in 2007 covered the costs for staff and basic operations at the centre, but much more is needed

"The CPA has been treating people with cerebral palsy in NSW for over 65 years. It is the most common physical disability in childhood," Mr Constance said.

"The CPA has plans to turn the site at Allambie Heights into a world class facility. This donation from the NSW Government will help that vision become a reality."

Anyone who would like to donate can do so at [www.cerebralpalsy.org.au](http://www.cerebralpalsy.org.au) or by calling 9926 9200.

## **BACKGROUND NOTES ON THE CEREBRAL PALSY ALLIANCE AND THE DISABILITY**

- On 8 February 2011 The Spastic Centre legally changed its name to Cerebral Palsy Alliance of NSW.
- The Cerebral Palsy Alliance of NSW will receive \$44,571,900 recurrent and non recurrent funding in the 2010/11 financial year.
- Cerebral Palsy Alliance of NSW is scoping an online education program for undergraduate therapy students and mature therapists returning to the disability sector.
- As part of *Stronger Together* the Cerebral Palsy Alliance of NSW received \$1,715,000 in 2009, to improve service provision and promote innovative service delivery, through special projects.
- Every 15 hours, an Australian child is born with cerebral palsy (CP).
- It is the most common physical disability in childhood.
- Cerebral palsy is an umbrella term for a group of disorders. It is a condition that is permanent, but not unchanging.
- Cerebral palsy is a life-long physical disability due to damage of the developing brain.
- In most cases, brain injury leading to cerebral palsy occurs during pregnancy.
- Cerebral palsy, except in its mildest forms, can be evident in the first 12-18 months.
- Motor disability can range from minimal to profound, depending on the individual.
- It can range from weakness in one hand, to an almost complete lack of voluntary movement requiring 24 hour care.
- Children with cerebral palsy are likely to also have other impairments in addition to their motor disability.
- Spastic hemiplegia, where one half of the body has difficulty with voluntary movement, is the most common presentation of cerebral palsy. Approximately 40% of people with CP have hemiplegia.
- There is no known cure.

ENDS