



**Senator Catryna Bilyk
Labor Senator for Tasmania
MEDIA RELEASE**

Senator Bilyk raising awareness on Cerebral Palsy

Senator Catryna Bilyk is using National Cerebral Palsy Awareness Week to raise awareness on this important medical condition.

Cerebral Palsy Awareness Week 2011 will be held from Sunday 31 July to 6 August.

The week is marked annually to recognise the achievements of people with cerebral palsy as well as to increase awareness, understanding and acceptance.

Cerebral Palsy is one of the most common disabilities in Australia with over 34,000 people living with the condition and with 600 to 700 infants born with CP annually.

“Cerebral Palsy is the term used to describe a group of nonprogressive disorders of movement and posture caused by damage as the brain is developing,” said Senator Bilyk.

“These disorders are noticeable early in life and are a permanent.

“It is important that people understand that Cerebral Palsy is not a disease, or contagious, and it is not hereditary,” said Senator Bilyk.

“Most people with Cerebral Palsy are healthy and able to participate actively in life and can expect a normal life span.

“However, associated disabilities such as epilepsy, intellectual, visual or auditory impairment may also be present.

“People with Cerebral Palsy should be treated the same as everyone else-with respect and dignity,” said Senator Bilyk.

On 1 August Senator Bilyk will cut the cake to celebrate the 1st birthday of *The Hunt* op shop.

The Hunt, which is operated by *Cerebral Palsy Tasmania*, raises funds for people with CP and their families and provides supported employment to people with disability.

To find out more about Cerebral Palsy and *The Hunt* visit www.cptas.org.au

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