



MEDIA RELEASE

Monday 15 September 2008

Ryan's making leaps and bounds

Last year, four-year-old Ryan Dyer of Narangba was speaking in two-word sentences, and poor balance prevented him from running and climbing like other boys his age. Now, he can tell his Mum Danielle a story, and he can confidently play in the playground with his Mum and Dad.

They're development milestones many parents would take for granted, but Ryan is thought to be the only person in Australia with Chronic Infantile Neuro-Cutaneous Articular (CINCA) Syndrome – an inflammatory disease with arthritic symptoms, that has caused him to spend much of his life in hospital.

Ryan is one of the first clients of MontroseAccess' Early Childhood Program for young children with difficulties in areas such as play and speech, which – one year on – is celebrating some remarkable client achievements.

"Ryan was born with a rash all over his body," explained Danielle. "Later on he became very unwell with meningitis-like symptoms – inflammation of the central nervous system, arthritis in knee joints and toes, and swelling around the brain and heart. He was in hospital for months and no one knew what was wrong.

"Ryan's diagnosis came as a relief, but it was still very difficult to accept as a parent. Plus all the time spent in hospital had delayed his development, play and speech."

The family's Rheumatologist referred them to MontroseAccess, a non profit organisation which supports children and young adults with physical disabilities, and Ryan was accepted into the Early Childhood Program. Regular visits from a physiotherapist, speech pathologist and occupational therapist in the past year have seen huge improvements in Ryan's motor skills and confidence – as well as Danielle's confidence in helping her son with his development.

"Before coming to MontroseAccess, we didn't know what level Ryan was at, making it difficult to look to the future," she said. "Now he is mastering skills like speech and balance. The therapists provide me with great ideas for fun, educational activities that Ryan and I can do together. He's going ahead in leaps and bounds, making wonderful improvements. We're thrilled - starting Prep is our new goal."

Speech Pathologist Marion Cook explained that the Early Childhood Program aims to provide an early intervention service that supports and empowers families of young children with physical difficulties. "Ryan's terrific progress since we began seeing him in 2007 shows that the Program is working."

MontroseAccess' Early Childhood Program is for Queensland children aged 0 – 8 years, with physical difficulties and high support needs in areas such as play and speech. For enquiries, please phone MontroseAccess on (07) 3379 9200 or visit www.montroseaccess.org.au.

For immediate release

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