



MontroseAccess

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**Monday 17 March 2008**

### **New MontroseAccess Clinic has kids sitting tall**

A generous grant from the Tattersall's George Adams Foundation will help to prevent young clients of MontroseAccess with neuromuscular conditions from developing spinal curvature in later life.

The Wheelchair Seating Clinic on 26 March is a pilot program developed by MontroseAccess (The Queensland Society for Crippled Children) to be held at the Corinda site throughout 2008.

The new clinic will make daily life more comfortable for children and young people in wheelchairs, with the use of an X Sensor Pressure Mapping System that has been purchased with the grant. The system will enable physiotherapists to simply and accurately determine if a child is sitting correctly in their chair by assessing where the greatest pressure is applied. The grant has also supplied the clinic with much needed specialised seating modification materials.

MontroseAccess Physiotherapist Helen Posselt said the Seating Clinic will in the short term maintain the posture and comfort of young people with physical disabilities, and prevent them from developing spinal problems, such as Scoliosis, further down the track.

"Children with neuromuscular conditions often have spinal problems," Helen explained. "Because the muscles lack strength, they're unable to support the child in an upright position. They sink back into the chair, or lean to one side. Unless action is taken to counteract this, the curved position becomes fixed, affecting lung capacity and other body functions.

"In the past, spinal surgery has been an unfortunate necessity for 90% of children with neuromuscular conditions. The aim of this clinic is to minimize the need for spinal surgery, which is sadly often a reality for many growing children who are reliant on a wheelchair for mobility."

Once the physiotherapist identifies the beginnings of a lean, they will prescribe cushioning modifications to correct the child's posture and ensure their spine is kept straight.

Helen explained that the potential outcomes of the Wheelchair Seating Clinic are widespread within the health industry. "The clinic will ease the workload of staff at the Rehabilitation Engineering Department at the Royal Brisbane Hospital, and ultimately provide cost savings for our health system by reducing the need for hospitalisation and surgery," she said.

"We are extremely grateful to Tattersall's George Adams Foundation for providing the operating and equipment costs of this clinic that will improve the lives of many young people."

**Media contact:**  
**Rachel Morgenbesser, PR Coordinator**  
**MontroseAccess**  
**P 07 3717 1184 / 0414 325 527**  
**E [rmorgenbesser@montroseaccess.org.au](mailto:rmorgenbesser@montroseaccess.org.au)**

The Queensland Society for Crippled Children – established 1933  
54 Consort Street Corinda / PO Box 50 Corinda Qld 4075  
P 07 3379 9200 F 07 3717 1146  
[www.montroseaccess.org.au](http://www.montroseaccess.org.au)