


Care

for your family member with cerebral palsy in an emergency



Many parents ask us who will care for their son or daughter if they cannot do so. This concern usually increases as they grow older and the possibility of some form of illness or medical emergency increases. There are not easy answers to this issue and everyone's situation is different however the following may offer some reassurance to family members.

Q. Who will care for my son or daughter if I become seriously ill or die?

For parents who have provided life-long care, the thought of no longer being able to do so may be a frightening prospect. While parents may long for a break from the relentlessness of their care schedule, the possibility of an unplanned emergency situation can be a source of strain and anxiety.

The Spastic Centre will always make a response to a genuine care emergency. The situation may come to the attention of The Centre in a variety of ways; a family member may call the CEO, Manager, Pathways or the CP Helpline. As a first step, a support worker is appointed immediately to implement a short-term plan with the family while longer-term strategies are developed if necessary.

If it is expected that the crisis will be short-term, it may be possible to continue to support the person at home with additional Home Care, Health and Aged services. Temporary respite may also assist these arrangements. If long-term care is required, The Spastic Centre can support families to apply for permanent accommodation with the most suitable provider, considering the person's needs and location.

Q. Are there ways in which I can prepare for this?

Making long term care plans, financial and guardianship arrangements can be challenging and something that many families delay in tackling. To support families to take control of their arrangements, The Spastic Centre offers all families a workshop information program, *Family Care*, which provides useful ideas and supports that can be put in place. These workshops also offer families the opportunity to meet with others who are facing similar dilemmas.

Q. Where can I get more information?

For more information about the *Family Care* workshop program or any aspect of planning for the future, please call the CP Helpline on 1300 30 29 20.