



MEDIA RELEASE

5 January 2010

DON'T DUMP UNWANTED MOBILE PHONES AFTER CHRISTMAS – DONATE THEM

People are being urged to make their Christmas gifts keep on giving, by donating unwanted mobile phones for recycling and at the same time help children with cerebral palsy.

With new mobile phones popular items under the Christmas tree this season, The Spastic Centre is asking people not to throw away their old mobiles. They can instead be donated for recycling, with \$3-\$5 for every phone donated going to The Spastic Centre.

CEO of The Spastic Centre, Mr Rob White, said it was a perfect way for people to ensure their Christmas gifts kept on giving.

'New mobile phones would have been under Christmas trees in thousands of homes around the country', Mr White said. 'That means there are now thousands of old mobiles lying around in cupboards, desks and offices. These unwanted mobiles, regardless of their age or working order, can be turned into much needed money to help children with cerebral palsy.'

It is estimated that Australians buy 3-4 million new mobile phones per year. There are a staggering 22 million mobile phone services registered in Australia, which is equal to our population.

While one of life's conveniences, mobile phones can cause a variety of serious health problems if they end up in landfill.

The Spastic Centre has joined forces with the Aussie Recycling Program (ARP) to recycle unwanted mobiles. Those that are not too damaged are cleaned and repaired and sent overseas to provide affordable telecommunications in developing countries. All other phones are fully recycled, with parts available for re-use.

For every phone donated, The Spastic Centre receives between \$3-\$5 from ARP.

'It is a win-win situation', Mr White said. 'By recycling your old mobile, you are preventing it ending up in landfill, you are helping provide affordable telecommunications for people in developing countries, and you are helping raise funds for people with cerebral palsy. And importantly, it costs you nothing.'

'Who would have thought that getting a new mobile phone for Christmas could help so many other people in need?'

To donate your unwanted mobile, call 02 9479 7232 for a pre-paid, pre-addressed recycling satchel.

MEDIA CONTACT

Jennifer Durante – Media Coordinator - 9479 7257 / 0419 802 602

The Spastic Centre
321 Mona Vale Road
Terrey Hills 2084

The facts of cerebral palsy

- Cerebral palsy (CP) is the most common, physical disability in childhood
- CP is a permanent disability that affects movement
- CP results from damage to the developing brain, usually before birth
- In Australia, 1 in 400 babies is diagnosed with CP
- There is no known cure and, for most, the cause is unknown
- People with CP may also have seizures, and sensory and intellectual impairments

Donations may be made by phoning 1300 136 140 or at www.thespasticcentre.com.au