

The Victorian Cerebral Palsy Register



What is the Victorian Cerebral Palsy Register?

The Victorian Cerebral Palsy Register collects basic information about people with cerebral palsy born since 1970. It is an initiative of the Department of Developmental Medicine (formerly Child Development and Rehabilitation) at The Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne. This Department is committed to the care of children with disabilities. It aims to conduct and promote educational programs and research activity in the area of childhood disability and strives to promote policies and principles that will best meet the needs of children and empower their families.

...determining how the incidence of cerebral palsy has been changing over time in Victoria.

The Register is extremely important in enabling us to determine how the incidence of cerebral palsy has been changing over time in Victoria. Research conducted through the Murdoch Children's Research Institute also allows us to better understand any trends in the type and severity of the movement disorder in cerebral palsy, and to advance our knowledge of the multitude of factors that appear to increase the risk of cerebral palsy.

What information is collected?

The information collected for each child covers five broad areas:

- General information about the child and family
- Birth details, such as gestation and birth weight
- Any known or apparent causes
- The type and severity of the movement disorder
- Associated disabilities such as the presence of epilepsy, visual, hearing or speech difficulties, and the level of intellectual functioning.

How will the information be used?

The Victorian Register is one of the largest single cerebral palsy registers in the world and this places it in a unique position to contribute to what is known about cerebral palsy worldwide.

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State registers also contribute to an Australian Cerebral Palsy Register which will enable more extensive research into causes and trends. Both projects fulfil state and federal privacy legislation requirements that information cannot be used in any way that identifies any individual person.

The ultimate goal of this project is to advance our knowledge in an effort to provide better help and support for everyone with cerebral palsy, their families and the community in which they live.

Your contribution is important

Thank you for your interest in the Victorian Cerebral Palsy Register. The success of this project depends on the cooperation of many different people, especially the families of those with cerebral palsy. Each individual's information can contribute to a better understanding of cerebral palsy, both now and in the future.

For further information contact the Register coordinator:

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