

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August, 2011

Brisbane Charity Launches World Leading Therapy Resource

A new resource being launched this week is set to improve the quality of lives for hundreds of children in Australia, and across the world, living with the crippling neuromuscular condition Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD).

The resource, being launched by charity MontroseAccess on Thursday, is a publication for all medical professionals including physiotherapists, occupational therapists, speech pathologists, social workers, psychologists and recreation officers about the nature and treatment of the life-limiting condition. It's not only helping to improve the quality of life of those who have the condition, but also helping increase life expectancy.

MontroseAccess physiotherapist, Helen Posselt, wrote the comprehensive second edition publication. The original publication from 2001 was sold around the world and translated into seven different languages including Icelandic.

Helen is a world authority on the condition and knows every child in Queensland with DMD by first name.

"On average, 1 in every 3,500 boys will have this debilitating condition, and that is true of anywhere in the world. This condition causes muscle deterioration and typically only effects boys, although we do have one girl in Australia that also has this condition. It's very sad because by about the age of ten, most people who have DMD will need to start using a wheelchair."

Helen has already been instrumental in Australia for developing many of the current treatment methods used for this condition. One of the most significant has been to ensure that once children start using a wheelchair, they are constantly adapted to match their body needs, instead of giving them a one size fits all chair.

"Back surgery was a very common requirement because the chairs the boys were using were not offering appropriate support and they were too big. With the muscle deterioration, their backs suffered and surgery was required. By constantly modifying their chairs to offer greater support, we have reduced the need for back surgery."

Following the official launch of the publication there will be a morning tea and an opportunity for media to get interviews with Helen Posselt, clients with DMD and other therapists and experts.

Helen will also then deliver a special presentation for therapists and teachers about the publication and the findings from her research into the condition.

What: Global launch of 'Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy' resource

Where: MontroseAccess, 54 Consort Street, Corinda

When: 10:30am, Thursday August 25

If you would like high res images or to arrange a photo shoot or interview, please feel free to contact MontroseAccess Communications Manager, Adam Harper, on (07) 3717 1184 or 0404 871 360 or email aharper@montroseaccess.org.au

Disability care for kids