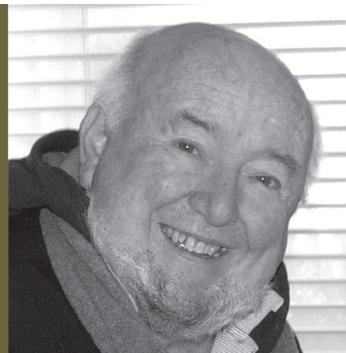


From the desk of Thomas Keneally, AO



These may be the most important words I have ever written.

I am no researcher. As you probably know, I am an author and playwright. But as a layman who reads a bit of science, I am confident that a cure for cerebral palsy will come in the future, if we all pull together and put a little bit of weight behind the search.

That is the reason I am writing to you today - to invite you to join me in leaving a gift to Cerebral Palsy Alliance in your Will.

Whatever you give, your contribution will resonate throughout the generations who will come after us - by helping to improve the quality of life of people living with cerebral palsy, and perhaps even preventing it altogether.

What I find so inspiring about the people I have met with cerebral palsy is their rugged desire not to be limited by cerebral palsy. And yet they are limited, physically, in many instances.

So for me, finding a cure for the physical constraints of cerebral palsy, something which it appears can be done in the future, is I think an immensely valuable contribution that each of us can make.

My interest in the condition came about through the many friendships I have been privileged to develop with young people living with cerebral palsy who are keen footy fans, as I am.

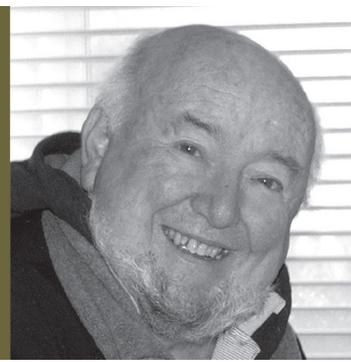
We meet often at games, and through them I have made a number of visits to observe the staff and families at Cerebral Palsy Alliance, and have seen the wonderful therapies and equipment which truly makes a difference in the daily lives of people with cerebral palsy and their families.

I have also spoken to a number of experts in the field, and have become aware of how to observe the staff and families at Cerebral Palsy Alliance, and have seen the wonderful therapies and equipment which truly makes a difference in the daily lives of people with cerebral palsy and their families.

I believe we are on the eve of finding a biological or other remedy for conditions like cerebral palsy, and that funding is likely to yield fairly quick results for the betterment of the wonderful people who bravely deal with their condition in a way that I don't think I could.

It's their toughness and endurance and courage that also got me involved in the cause, along with the devotion and courage of the parents which I

From the desk of Thomas Keneally, AO



find deeply moving.

Here you have fellow Australians, and an increasing number of Australian children who are still being born with cerebral palsy - a staggering statistic of one child every 15 hours.

Their quality of life is impinged upon drastically by a condition which could be cured, can be cured, and will be cured, perhaps not within our lifetime but certainly within the lifetimes of our children or grandchildren.

When it comes to updating your Will and deciding which causes to include, I personally can't think of a better prospect than this.

The research is very impressive, even to a layman, and indicates that a cure is not far away. In fact, given the pace of neurological and genetic research being undertaken in so many fields, it is very likely that this condition will be beaten within the next century.

I was born in an era before antibiotics, a time when polio was all too common an affliction - it's something you simply don't see any more. If we have come all that way in terms of medical breakthroughs in my lifetime, then can you imagine the exponential pace at which therapies will develop in the next 75 years?

And if you and I give a small percentage of what we leave on Earth to cerebral palsy it will mean that very quickly in terms of human history the world will see a result.

To depart this earth knowing that you have given a tiny bit of weight to moving that great machine of revolution and redemption forward an inch or two is a great thing.

Please join me by remembering Cerebral Palsy Alliance in your final document.

Thomas Keneally AO

Cerebral Palsy Alliance Ambassador