



Government of Western Australia  
Department of Health



## CONNECT-CP

### *Clinical Research Program to Improve Connection, Access and Translation of Evidence in Cerebral Palsy*



#### What is Cerebral Palsy (CP)?

CP is the **most common physical disability** in childhood. It is caused by damage to the developing brain, which affects body movement.

There is no cure, but **early detection and support** makes a significant difference to **management of the condition and quality of life**.

#### Why Early Detection Matters:

The **first 1,000 days** of a child's life are very important. Although CP can be detected as early as 3 months of age, many children in WA – especially those living in regional and remote areas – aren't diagnosed until later.

**Late diagnosis** may mean children miss out on important early therapy and support.

**Early CP detection and support** can make a lifelong difference with **better outcomes for children** and **less stress for families**.

#### Our Vision:

Led by Kids Rehab WA, **CONNECT-CP** aims to **diagnose CP earlier** and ensure all children in WA have **access to early assessment and support**.

CONNECT-CP will connect services, strengthen local support, and give clinicians the right tools to provide timely care for children and families.

#### We're building a statewide clinical & research network to provide:



**Digital Tools** for remote assessments using secure video recording & analysis



**Specialist Education and Training** for healthcare workers & families to detect CP earlier



**Clear Referral Pathways** so families get support faster

The first 1,000 days are a critical window for brain development

Only 21% of children with CP are diagnosed <6 months

1 in 700 children in Australia are born with CP

1 in 3 children with CP live in rural and remote areas

#### Current Call:

Help us advance early detection & better outcomes in CP.

[Please click here to join the CONNECT-CP Consumer Reference Group](#)

## Meet the CONNECT-CP Project Team



**Professor Jane Valentine**  
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