

What is Cerebral Palsy?

Cerebral Palsy is a physical disability that affects movement and posture.

The Te Reo Māori term for Cerebral Palsy is Hōkai Nukurangi – to achieve what is important to you.

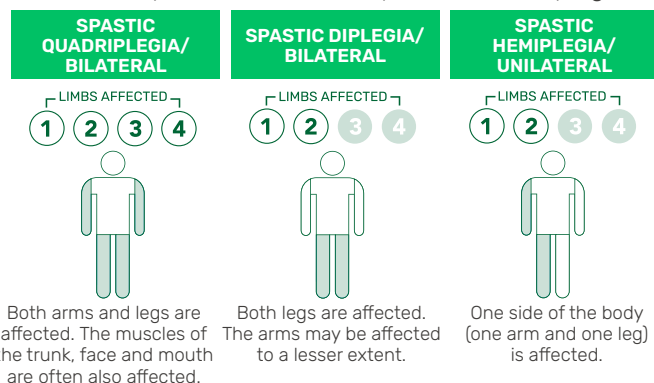
Approximately
10,000
people live with
Cerebral Palsy
in Aotearoa
New Zealand

Facts about Cerebral Palsy

- 1 Cerebral Palsy is a lifelong condition.
- 2 It is caused by damage to the developing brain in pregnancy to shortly after birth, or up to age 2.
- 3 Cerebral Palsy can result in different movement types depending on where the brain injury is.
- 4 Every 3 days a baby is born in Aotearoa New Zealand with Cerebral Palsy.
- 5 It is the most common physical disability in childhood.

Parts of the body

Cerebral Palsy can affect different parts of the body e.g.



Movement and mobility

The gross motor skills (e.g. sitting and walking) of children and young people with Cerebral Palsy can be categorised into 5 different levels using a tool called the Gross Motor Function Classification System (GMFCS) developed by CanChild in Canada.



GMFCS Level I



GMFCS Level II



GMFCS Level III



GMFCS Level IV



GMFCS Level V

Hand use

At least two thirds of people with Cerebral Palsy will have movement difficulties affecting one or both arms. Almost every daily activity can be impacted.



Eating



Dressing



Writing

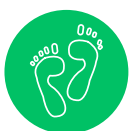


Catching a ball

Associated conditions

People with Cerebral Palsy may also have a wide range of other conditions.

1 in 3
is unable to walk



1 in 4
is unable to talk



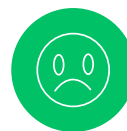
3 in 4
experience pain



1 in 4
has epilepsy



1 in 4
has a behaviour disorder



1 in 2
has an intellectual impairment



1 in 10
has a severe vision impairment



1 in 4
has bladder control problems



1 in 5
has a sleep disorder



1 in 5
has saliva control problems



References: Novak I, Hines M, Goldsmith S, Barclay R (2012). Clinical prognostic messages from a systematic review on cerebral palsy. *Pediatrics*, Nov 2012;130 (5). Palisano R, Rosenbaum P, Walter S, Russell D, Wood E & Galuppi B (1997). Development and validation of a Gross Motor Function Classification System for children with Cerebral Palsy. *Developmental Medicine and Child Neurology*, 39, 214-223. CanChild Centre for Childhood Disability Research www.canchild.ca. Australian Cerebral Palsy Register, Birth Years 1993-2009, September 2016.