



THE CRU DIRECTOR'S CHAIR: October 2008

Greetings from my now mildly warm Director's chair! The response to our first communiqué was quite overwhelming and I wish to thank again those of you who took the time to feedback messages of support, congratulations and hope. I also wish to thank all those who were willing and able to attend CRU's recent AGM and 20th Anniversary celebrations making it the success it was. I hope you have all received the written information and photographic evidence of the night's proceedings in a preceding e-bulletin!

CRU has been busy over the past month attracting and inducting new staff to the vacant and temporarily filled positions of Information Consultant and Office Coordinator/Finance Officer respectively, adding to our growing sense of being once more a viable, lively team. On October 18, both staff and soon to be, outgoing and/or incoming, committee members explored with Michael Kendrick (long term CRU ally), the challenges and opportunities awaiting CRU through allowing ourselves to think outside the square and be shaken from our more comfortable, familiar and habitual modus operandi. Major areas identified include gaining political clout, building relevance and relationships across the entire community, government and corporate sector, financial diversity and the engaging and nurturing of emerging, younger leaders. More about that later!

Not to be overlooked is the fact that CRU has, for some time, been running two very successful projects viz., the **Succession Project** and the **Safeguards Project** (not to be confused with the Community Safeguards Coalition) prior to, and now alongside, CRU's transition process. The *Safeguards* (safeguarding personalised service responses for people with disability) *Project* is nearing completion and CRU will be holding a summit on the 11th November at Riverglen to share our learnings, gain from the wisdom and practices of others and more importantly plan how to safeguard the ongoing development and implementation of truly personal, individually tailored and flexible service responses in Queensland. Many people with disability and their families who have struggled long and hard to gain service responses of this nature and those services willing, creative and flexible enough to provide them, are beginning to see an erosion of their efforts and capacity: they rightly sense a growing threat to the longevity of, and commitment to individualised responses as they bow under the weight of increasingly paternalistic, outmoded, and obstructionist forms of funding and accommodation arrangements and wider, conservative, external factors. If you share this concern, or if you simply want to know more, then contact CRU on 3211 5700 to register your attendance. There must needs be an alternative voice and innovative examples sufficient enough to allow a healthy balance to the status quo. In many disability support jurisdictions across the world this is, as it ought to be, standard practice.

Finally, allow me to remind you that if you wish, either on an individual or organisational basis, to share your thoughts about CRU, and/or what you are trying to achieve in your area I would be most interested.

Christine Douglas
Transition Director