



THE CRU DIRECTOR'S CHAIR: November 2008

Greetings from my increasingly warm Director's chair! I hope you and all those in your family and work spheres have been safe and secure against the buffeting storms of these past weeks. Whirlwinds of another kind have been sweeping through CRU as we hosted two well attended events on the 10th & 11th November that centred round creating, sustaining and safeguarding person-centred responses for people with disability. The presentations were outstanding as we learned the lessons and challenges of what is happening in our own very state in particular (albeit in small pockets) and the journey of one overseas organisation as they travelled the gauntlet from a traditional day program to individualised community-based support. The energy and genuine collegial support that emanated from the Safeguards Summit day was truly inspiring and CRU will make every effort to ensure that the hopes and actions expressed and outlined on that day will not be lost after the funded project itself comes to an end early 2009.

One of the collectives supported by CRU's *Succession Project* held their inaugural AGM up on the Sunshine Coast late this month. They have called themselves *Elements* and their work is progressing beautifully. They hope to gain approved service provider status early in 2009 and it was a privilege to be part of this historic event. *Elements* is one of the smallest collectives (3 families) and goes to show that it's not numbers alone that win the day. Congratulations to *Elements*: your journey, and this milestone in particular, acts as an incentive and inspiration to all of us who are trying to achieve better lives for our families and friends with disability.

This month has also been characterised by my attending various functions, launches, meetings and conversations which are all very helpful observation and learning exercises to gauge the various moods, perspectives, issues and concerns of the sector and feed into CRU's discernment process.

The internal management learning and operations curve is not quite so steep these days as we new kids on the block learn our ropes and gain a little more capacity to balance our inward and outward foci. On the 27th of this month the entire Committee and staff participated in a strategic directions planning session, led by the ever capable and insightful Margaret Endicott. Where I think, we as a team, did in fact venture into that "place of courage" that Mike Duggan our immediate past president referred to in his outgoing President's report. We invite you to watch this space in the New Year as we unveil what I believe will be an exciting and innovative next step in our renewal as a potent agent for change.

Finally, and as always, CRU cannot and will not be what it needs to be, without your support. We encourage you to become a member of CRU, thereby making a direct investment and growing the returns!

Christine Douglas
Transition Director