



THE CRU DIRECTOR'S CHAIR: December 2008

Greetings from my now very warm Director's chair! I hope you and all your loved ones and friends had an enjoyable, relaxing Christmas and are ready to welcome in the New Year. This month's communiqué is brief for obvious reasons but not short on enthusiasm and energy for the year ahead as CRU moves from strength to strength: and in spite of what the above insert might suggest we are very sober here at CRU knowing that time is moving on and there is much to achieve in this time of transition!

Early in the New Year CRU will be launching a series of CRUcial conversations, around issues central to the primacy of people with disability and their families, including the sometimes neglected voice and view of siblings. We hope you will partake in this opportunity to engage in broader, deeper discussion with various others with the view to extending and challenging your own and other's thinking and benefitting from the collective pool of wisdom and experience.

You may already be aware of an independent review of Queensland government boards, committees and statutory authorities and functions that is underway. CRU has been recently alerted by the Office of the Public Advocate (OPA) that they have been inappropriately included on the list, whether by design or by oversight it is not clear. The review, announced in March 2008 by the Premier Anna Bligh and with submissions due by 16th January 2009, will identify and recommend to the Premier, amongst other things, those government bodies working efficiently and to presumably remain; those no longer necessary and thereby face immediate abolition and those that can be merged into or transferred to another similar body. The OPA maintains it is a statutory appointment and not an authority. Furthermore it is currently being reviewed by the Queensland Law Reform Commission as part of its review of Queensland's Guardianship laws adding additional weight to the inappropriateness of the above wider systemic review. CRU encourages you to make your views known to both reviews and particularly to offer support to the OPA during this unsettling and uncertain period by contacting them on **3224 7424**. There are many of us who campaigned long and hard for the establishment of the Public Advocate in Queensland we need to ensure that this entity continues and remains as independent as possible.

Please visit the link below for further information

http://www.premiers.qld.gov.au/Government/Boards_and_committees/review/

In ending I take the liberty of repeating last month's signing off and that is to say 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! Happy New Year!

Christine Douglas
Transition Director