



THE CRU DIRECTOR'S CHAIR: May 2009

Greetings from my almost combustible Director's chair! Since the last communiqué I have travelled to Chinchilla, where I attended a large family gathering hosted by the Local Area Co-ordination Program, Disability Services, Department of Communities - 29th & 30th May. It was a wonderful opportunity to connect with people with disability, families and workers in the Darling Downs, Southwest region, share their stories, talk about CRU's proposed strategic vision and goals and how future mutual engagement might occur and put our resources on display. For some it was a first introduction to CRU, for others an opportunity to reconnect and hopefully strengthen ties. Should similar gatherings be planned in other areas, and subject, of course, to invitation and timing, CRU is open to attending and participating at whatever level is appropriate and available.

Due to unprecedented demand for CRU's joint workshop with Mamre Association on *Self-directed Support & Personalised Budgets in Queensland* scheduled for 17 June, a repeat workshop has been planned for 30th July. Fifty (50) registrations have already been received, leaving at the very most, room for thirty (30) more places. In a bid to compensate those unable to attend, CRU will make every effort to record the speakers and post on YouTube. It is hoped this rising level of demand for information and choice around more personalised, individualised ways of receiving and rolling out funded supports, will send a message to government and departmental personnel to ensure this way of funding is a standard, viable option in Queensland. Several other states in Australia are already administering this model of funding with growing success and evidenced benefits to all parties involved.

Moves are afoot to host another CRUcial Conversation sometime in July. The theme for the evening will focus on Goal 3 of CRU's 2020 Framework, Strategic Vision and Goals – *Promote, Support and Safeguard Person-Centred and Directed Responses*. Discussion will focus on positive examples of person centred practice. Watch this space in the June edition.

Time has certainly flown and my tenure as Transition Director is fast coming to an end. With this in mind, the search for CRU's new permanent director has begun. While there is still a lot of work to be done, much has also been achieved. Your support and encouragement has been a significant contributing factor in this outcome. CRU will be conducting three more workshops this year

- 7 July - Asset Based Community Development
- 3 Sept - Creative Thinking and
- 1 Oct - Community Inclusion

The second sitting of CRU's Brisbane based Mini Summit will take place 24 June. At the end of which CRU will have articulated its wider vision for people with disability, families and society; begun to construct a shared vision by and with all summit participants and identified a number of areas to work in partnership with interested allies. Plans are being made to visit various locations in central and far north Queensland, over the next two months, to inform people of our "new" direction. The remaining time spent in transition, will also be used on how best to prioritise and realistically implement our goals and strategies in partnership with people with disability, families and allies across the sector.

As always we would love you to touch base with us to discuss your membership status either by phone **3211 5700** or email cru@cru.org.au

Christine Douglas
Transition Director