



THE CRU DIRECTOR'S CHAIR: June 2009

Greetings from my soon-to-be vacated Director's Chair! However until that time comes there are still many conversations to be had and work to do as CRU weaves those last few remaining transitional threads into its tapestry of the future.

June has been a busy, interesting month. The two most significant events for CRU were the *Self-directed Support & Personalised Budgets in Queensland* workshop 17th June, that CRU co-hosted with Mamre, and our Mini Summit second sitting 24th June. The workshop as previously stated was totally booked out as is the repeat workshop (30th July). Participants were led through a number of different examples illustrating the strengths, challenges and opportunities that this way of funding and supporting people with disability brings. Participants learned that individualised funding has been operating successfully in some countries for over 15 years and that we have a number of very exciting illustrations of our own here in Queensland, due to the creativity, determination and vision of a small, but important, number of individuals and agencies willing to be innovative and flexible. The challenge and hope of course is that Disability Services will move from its tentative, narrow embrace of individualised funding, to a fully fledged program bringing genuine choice and control to those people with disability and/or their families who want to work with this funding method.

The second sitting of CRU's Mini Summit proved to be a further affirmation, by participants, of our strategic direction and goals. CRU took the opportunity to address a number of concerns and queries that were raised in the first sitting. CRU delivered its Vision Statement for the future, as distinct from its strategic vision for the organisation which we presented at the May sitting. It is included as a separate attachment. On that night we also provided an opportunity to develop a shared vision for 2020. This process, facilitated by Marg Endicott, generated in a thoughtful, considered statement giving a sense, to those of us present, that we are all moving in the same direction from a point of consensus and hope. CRU will produce its final form in the very near future for distribution.

CRU's present and future working framework is that of a hub - a connecting point for all of us in the disability field to engage in meaningful constructive conversations to bring about positive change in the lives of people with disability. In the interests of working more collaboratively and engaging in partnerships with others we have established four **Collaborative Working Groups**. These are:

- Collaborative Working Group No.1 - Leadership and Mentoring
- Collaborative Working Group No.2 - Communication
- Collaborative Working Group No.3 - Person Centred Approaches
- Collaborative Working Group No.4 - Diversified Funding

Each working group correlates to one of CRU's four strategic goals. For further information about these working groups or to register your interest in joining one, I would be delighted to have a conversation with you.

CRU is working towards publishing **CRUcial Times** in October after more than a year's interlude!! **CRUcial Times** is a vital expression of CRU's commitment to the dissemination of accurate, thoughtful and comprehensive information, education and good ideas. It also serves as an important vehicle for nurturing and promoting local, "non-professional" writers and thinkers, as well as those nationally and internationally.

Thanks to those of you who have become members over the past eleven months. Your "coming on board" is so encouraging and inspires us to work all the more intently on being and remaining an important voice for and about the lives and essential place of people with disability in our society.

Christine Douglas
Transition Director