

From the CRU Directors Chair

I have now had a few weeks sitting in the Directors Chair at CRU full time. Actually that's a slight exaggeration, as 'sitting' is not a word I associate with my work at CRU at the moment. While I was sad to say goodbye to my colleagues at the Community and Specialist Services Development Branch I am very relieved to now have one job rather than two.

These early months have been a time of rapid learning and catching up on the many details of managing a small organization – for the moment, I am pre-occupied with premises, policies and procedures, budgets and staffing as we put all the things in place behind the scenes for a busy 2010.

In this latter part of 2009, CRU's approach has been to capitalise on opportunities that have presented rather than to plan a calendar of events throughout the state. There have been quite a few people visiting Queensland who have been happy to share their thoughts and ideas in small gatherings - Dr Jennifer Clegg from Nottingham University; Martina Rynne from the Brothers of Charity, Clare, Ireland; Anita O'Brien from Leading Distinctive Lives in Melbourne and Michael Kendrick who has been in Queensland, working with Disability Services in Maryborough.

In mid October, CRU launched its eighth publication "Letting in the Light – Reflections on Leadership, Ethics and Human Services" by Michael Kendrick. I believe that this small collection of essays contains insights and reflections that are fundamental to the questions we face when we stand with, care about and attempt to serve people who are vulnerable. These topics are presented in a way that provides a thought provoking introduction for people who have joined this journey recently and yet they also contain depth and new insights for those who have been on this journey for many years. CRU is very proud to be associated with the publication of this book.

The proceeds from the book will be directed to an Innovation and Leadership Development fund. Details of this will follow – *when we have worked them out!* For the moment, we are quite preoccupied with just distributing the book around the world.

I have attached an order form and more details can be found on our website www.cru.org.au

The launch of the Blue Skies scenario by Minister Palaszczuk in September is an opportunity for an important turning point in our sector.

This proactive initiative of a small number of leaders from the Community sector paints for us an inspiring vision of how life could be for all Queenslanders, including those who live with disability. I want to thank and congratulate the people who have initiated this. Bringing this vision to reality is the responsibility of all of us now. Keep checking the website <http://www.blue-skies.info/index.htm> as there has been more thoughtful work developed on the principles and elements of this vision. We are all invited to host or take part in conversations on 3rd December, the International Day of Persons with Disability to keep working out what we can do individually and collectively to make this vision a reality. Details of those conversations can also be found on the Blue skies website.

As CRU moves out of this period of transition and plans how to best use its resources we are hastening slowly, reminded of the words of Nobel prize winner, Albert Szent Gyorgyi who said “For every complex problem there is a simple, easy to understand, incorrect answer.”

We have an edition of Crucial Times and a Calendar for 2010 under construction – we will send them out as soon as we can.

With best wishes,
Margaret Rodgers