

FROM THE CRU DIRECTOR'S CHAIR

Happy New Year. As you read this I hope you are feeling relaxed and refreshed from a break from the usual routines.

If not, I hope you at least get to feel the satisfaction of getting some things accomplished while the rest of the world is still on holidays.

I am in the latter category this year.

I have attached a dateclaimier outlining a series of workshops that CRU will be presenting early in 2010.

You may be aware, that the third of CRU's four strategic goals is to promote, support and safeguard person centred and directed responses.

With this in mind, CRU in collaboration with Department of Communities -Disability Services has asked Michael Kendrick to present a series of workshops throughout Queensland in the first half of 2010.

Michael will present a whole range of things that need to be considered as we work with and for people with disabilities to assist them to live real and meaningful lives in their community. Michael lives in the United States but works as an international consultant and is involved in providing training and workshops; evaluating services and writing. He has been visiting Queensland and associated with CRU for over 20 years.

This notion of starting with the person, working out what they need and want and then putting that into place - one person at a time, sounds clear and straightforward but we know from experience that this is harder to achieve than it sounds. The very systems that are in place to enable, can actually become obstacles to good lives for people. We have a lot to learn about how to achieve and then sustain decent and meaningful lives for people and particularly how to achieve this for **all** people with disability.

Disability Services is subsidizing this event, which means that we can offer it for a lower fee than we would normally need to charge to meet our costs.

We hope this will make it easier for people with disabilities, their families, and workers from the government and non-government sectors to attend and explore these questions together.

This is one initiative of CRU in the first half of 2010. We will send details of other workshops and Crucial conversations as soon as they are confirmed.

With best wishes,

Margaret Rodgers

Director

08/01/2010