

From the President

CRU's twenty fifth anniversary celebration was quite an event. On behalf of the Management Committee I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all those who were involved in making the whole day and night such an inspiring and exciting event. To the people with disability, their families and friends who shared their stories and examples of what is possible – I sincerely thank you for your generosity and contribution. To all of you who came along – thanks for celebrating CRU's anniversary so well.

The key themes of the forum were: Getting a Good Life, inclusion, change, innovation, leadership and social movements. These were presented and discussed in such a way that I am confident many of us left the event filled with creativity and a new energy for creating positive change in the lives of people with a disability. If you were not able to attend, please enjoy reading some of what was presented in this edition of CRUcial Times. If you were there, you might, like me, have been looking forward to re-reading these presentations and catching those bits you missed and reliving the bits you loved.

This year we proudly celebrate twenty five years (and counting) of leadership, innovation, challenge, collaboration, partnerships and community living. For a community-managed organisation to reach such a milestone is quite an achievement.

CRU remains a unique part of the disability movement in Queensland thanks to its members and supporters. During our history there have been times when the numbers at events were low, when the vision got a little out of focus, when funding was threatened and when a compliance or legal requirement demanded more attention than might otherwise have been desirable. Despite these challenges, members and supporters have kept watch over the years to ensure CRU always came back to its purpose.

For twenty five years CRU's small teams of staff has worked in partnership with people around the state to inform, inspire and educate, to develop leaders and to confront ideas and practices that limit the lives of people with a disability. There have always been times of great promise and change and in 2013 we find ourselves there again.

CRU is a bit like a service station. You need to pull in every now and then and fill up before getting on your way again. Events like the forum are like filling up with Premium – not the regular unleaded. With this injection we may feel like we want to go faster, but the lasting impact is that the premium assists in working better and more effectively. The direction we take as we pull away from the service station is heavily influenced by what we took in and a clear pathway to community living opens up. We are carried along this path by solid foundations, and guided by the leadership of people with a disability, their families and allies, our networks and alliances.

Lorna Hallahan writes, "Our values are not aspirational." Here is to another twenty five years of putting our values into action.

Cheers,

Matt Stone