

## From the President

I think it was Confucius who said, *"If you don't change direction, you will end up where you're going"*.

Paying attention to direction is something that the staff and management of CRU take seriously when we work together each three years to develop and record our strategic plan. The CRU Committee of Management has the overall responsibility for ensuring CRU, as an organisation, works towards achieving the goals detailed in the Plan.

One of the goals in the current 2011-2014 Strategic Plan is to "promote, strengthen and defend person-centred and directed responses". Having support systems that are person centred is a key component of self-direction. It makes sense to ensure that the person being served and those who know and love the person are at the centre of any planning and decision making processes that impact on their lives.

The promotion and strengthening of person-centred and person-directed responses is also likely to result in more people having greater autonomy over their own lives. We wish to promote and strengthen self-directed responses that honour the humanity of each person and lead to life-giving opportunities. It is also important to acknowledge the potential risks and vulnerabilities in misusing or under-utilising person-centred and directed responses.

This edition of CRUcial Times deals with self-direction for individuals and families, particularly in the area of formal support. It aims to share knowledge, wisdom and personal experiences of self-direction as another way in which CRU can help promote and defend the practice of working one person at a time.

Self-direction is not new in Queensland and therefore knowing the history will further assist in promoting and defending this practice. As the articles in this edition demonstrate, self-direction has great promise; a promise that must be balanced with an equal part of caution. With reference again to Confucius, we hope that pausing to reflect on self-direction now will help to ensure we don't just end up where we are going.

I hope you enjoy this edition of CRUcial Times and its theme of self-direction. In my role as a service manager, I always enjoy CRUcial Times turning up in my in-box or letter-box. On behalf of the Committee, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the contributors and the staff of CRU who have worked to bring this edition to print.

Cheers,

Matt