

From the President

One of the stated aims of the Community Resource Unit is to “*Inspire and encourage individuals and organisations to pursue better lives for people with disabilities*”. To work towards this aim CRU has a deliberate strategy to direct its work to a wide range of people across the disability sector: people with a disability, family members, friends and allies, government and non-government workers and academics.

This strategy has been a key feature of CRU’s workshops and other events from the very beginning. At the celebrations in October last year to mark the 25th Anniversary of the Search Conference, it was widely acknowledged this conference was one of the first events in Queensland where all stakeholders had come together to develop a shared vision for the future. As I continue to learn about the history of the disability sector in Queensland, I begin to understand how much more limited in its effect a conference such as Search would have been had it ignored the voice of any of those groups.

The concept of a CRU-type agency was part of the vision developed at the Search Conference. The Community Resource Unit became a reality the following year. Since then CRU has proudly continued the tradition of bringing people together rather than having different groups meet in isolation or in specialist gatherings. Many deep, thought-provoking and hopefully life-changing conversations have been generated as a result of this inclusive policy. The opportunity to share ideas in a broad setting has been especially important for people with a disability.

The range of contributors to CRUCial Times and the scope of its content are another indication of CRU’s inclusive strategy. Each edition of CRUCial Times includes articles from a diverse range of people including people with disability, family members, workers and academics. This current edition of CRUCial Times is a collection of articles from editions published over the past 25 years. It represents a range of voices from the sector, revisits themes of great importance and reinforces the call to personal leadership and the belief that Good Lives are possible. Please enjoy this historical collection and, whatever your interest in CRU’s work, be motivated by our aim *to pursue better lives for people with disabilities*.

I would like to close with a quote from Margaret Mead:

*Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world:
Indeed it's the only thing that ever has.*

Such a group were the participants in the Search Conference who had the original vision for the Community Resource Unit. They left us with a legacy that we are proud to continue.

Cheers,

Matt Stone

President of Community Resource Unit