



Home

Home is a central part of your community. At CRU we often speak of belonging to our community, and the ideas of building community and intentional communities, and the L'Arche community is an example of this. Home conjures many different meanings for each of us, and we all need the freedom to explore and express what that meaning is.

I see my home as one of the communities I have created and belong to. I live with my husband and a friend and we have lived together in this arrangement for over 20 years. For half of that time my husband's father has also lived on the same property in a daddy flat. He's not a granny so we can't really call it a granny flat. We share a meal each Sunday evening and have other family members join us.

Home is my sanctuary and a place of security, both physically and emotionally. It is a place to sleep, to practise my spirituality, to store my personal belongings, somewhere to create and share meals with family and friends. It's a place where I feel love and safety and can also freely express my vulnerabilities.

This may be the same for most of us but not all of us. While I have a real sense that my home is contained within a community, so often we see fragmented variations of this connection for people with disabilities. Without connection with others in community, what keeps people safe?

We have seen most recently that for people with disabilities even an ordinary house can become an institution - a place that becomes their everything, yet is completely outside their control. Services effectively taking over their home, and sending strangers in to provide support.

As a sister, I have recently supported my sister to reclaim her home. She is supported to live in her home, a private rental townhouse, each day and evening. She lived for many years with her best friend and together they shared their lives, as well as morning and evening supports. Her friend moved out recently and it has been an opportunity to reflect on what a home is for my sister and to support her to create that again.

It is the same for her as it is me. A place where she feels safe, can store and enjoy her favourite possessions, and be vulnerable.

She and I are the only people who have a key to her home. She chooses who comes into her home. She does her own shopping, with support, not the other way round. She goes to her bedroom to sleep when she is ready not when the worker's awake shift finishes. These little things that mean so much can be taken away with little thought.

It is our role as supporters to make sure they are not, especially with changing circumstances or unexpected events like COVID-19 which can unintentionally threaten the ordinariness of home.



CRU Board Members 2019-2020

Fletcher Tame	Chair
Josey McMahon	Secretary
Narissa Niesler	Director
Luke O'Sullivan	Director
Gerhard Tromp	Director
Sherryn West	Director

CRU Staff

CEO

Margaret Rodgers

Senior Consultant

Lisa Bridle

Consultants

Lindie Brengman

Catherine Laherty

Danielle Mason

Fiona Moore

Jen Mouritz

Hugh Rose-Miller

Finance Officer

Janene Parsons

Administration Officers

Sonia Brown-Diaz

Kathleen Fleming

Kim Jensen

Mercy Kyosiimye

Kerrie White