

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT TO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016

As 2016 is nearing an end for another year, it is a good time of reflection for not only the work we undertake as individuals but in the broader community as well.

Although it may seem like an unsettling time for many people around the world, I feel more so than ever, it is the little differences that we can all make around us that can help us feel grounded, create a sense of belonging and help make people feel welcomed, loved and safe, in particular to the people who are most vulnerable amongst our society.

I think it is a great reminder as to why Foundations Forum continues to aim to assist people to understand social devaluation and disadvantage in our community, especially as it affects the lives of people who are marginalised.

With this is at the core of the work we undertake, I am pleased to say that Foundations Forum hosted two workshops throughout 2015/2016. The Towards a Better Life two day SRV workshop was held in Burwood in September 2015. Jane Sherwin, Accredited Teacher of SRV presented. We had a mixture of family members, support workers and service providers come along and feedback was very positive.

In March 2016 Jane Sherwin returned to Sydney to lead the five day practicum PASSING with team leaders Kane Morgan and Margaret Boyes. It was great to see amongst participants a lot of family members attending this life changing workshop along with others who either worked alongside people with disability or people who are ageing.

The next twelve months I am sure will bring new challenges as we continue to look for opportunities to where we can best ensure our workshops remain viable, relevant and attract the sorts of people who want SRV as a framework to work from. However I am also re-energised and inspired when individuals are hearing for the first time about SRV and the positive feedback we receive about how good the workshops was and how life changing it has been for them and for the people they support. It is with this energy and the opportunity to work with those around us to make a difference that I look forward to the year ahead.