

**CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT TO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017**

It is hard to believe that another 12 months has past and as I reflect on last year’s report on the message I wrote, “it is the little differences we can make around us in particular to the people who are the most vulnerable amongst our society”. I continue to believe that this is where our energy can be directed the most, especially in this frantic pace of life and the significant social changes that are upon us daily.

From my own person relationships with marginalised and vulnerable people I know that in their lives, it’s the personal relationships, having a home, being loved, having autonomy over their lives, having a variety of valued roles and being included in their community that it is the most important to them and is what really makes a difference to them.

For far too many still this is not the reality and despite significant advances in our society I often feel a discourse to the impact or differences this is making.

Hence, why the importance of having a vision and a framework for something else – *a better life* - is so important and why Social Role Valorisation (SRV) remains just as important and relevant today as it did when the concept of Normalization was introduced in the late 60’s.

With human services shifting a lot of focus and energy on the roll out of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) that is currently taking place across Australia, this year saw far less attendance from staff who work in this area, but we have seen an increase in families and support workers who work with individuals in more inclusive ways.

Through-out the period of 2016-2017 Foundations Forum, hosted two workshops and sponsored two people to attend the Moral Coherency workshop which was held in Sydney in early July 2017.

The Towards a Better Life two-day SRV workshop was held in Burwood in May 2017. Jane Sherwin, Accredited Teacher of SRV presented. We had a mixture of family members, support workers who are working with individuals that self-manage their funding and a few people who are in Support Coordinator roles under the NDIS. Feedback was very positive, and most attendees reported that the content was relevant and powerful.

In February 2017 John Armstrong, Accredited Teacher of SRV lead the five-day practicum PASSSING including being the Team Leader along with Kane Morgan. 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 year ahead will bring its own challenges and Foundations Forum looks forward to continuing to provide relevant workshops. As a volunteer organisation I would like to thank committee members and supporters for your ongoing support, time and dedication. We are always looking for new people to join our committee and welcome new ideas, knowledge and wisdom so please feel free to make contact or share with others who might be interested.