

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT TO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

July 1st 2020 - 30th June 2021

The last twelve months continued to throw uncertainty upon us all including the work of Foundations Forum, with the impact of COVID 19 Pandemic continuing across the world.

Despite this we were able to forge ahead with hosting three successful face to face SRV workshops and several online learning sessions and discussions.

In December 2020 we hosted a series of three webinars presented by Accredited Teacher of Social Role Valorisation (SRV). John Armstrong about ways to gain the good things of life for people who are marginalised in our society using the lens of SRV. The three webinars were highly popular, and people were able to watch live or access the recording afterwards, we have also added these webinars recordings to our You Tube channel for anyone to be able to access and learn from.

We were fortunate in February 2021 to be able to offer two face to face workshops, the two-day SRV *Towards a Better Life* workshop and the one day *What does it mean to have an Intellectual Disability?* Workshop. These two workshops were fully booked out and had a wide range of different types of people attending.

In May we were able to offer the *Towards a better life* workshop again where it was a fully booked out event. It was great that we were able to have John Armstrong able to deliver these for us. John is based in Victoria so for him to have delivered these workshops in person with all the COVID restrictions and limitations in place and for us to deliver an event that was in a safe and comfortable environment for people attending was a huge success.

It has been great to see an increase in our reach to people who have attended our workshops through the last twelve months, particularly families and people who work and support people whether that's in disability, aged care, and mental health.

It is also good to be able to reflect on feedback we receive from participants who attend our workshops and to hear how we can improve these going forward but common feedback we often receive is how life changing attending A SRV workshop can be for people as reflected from this participants feedback from attending the *Towards a better life* workshop.

This "content" is life changing. I would encourage anyone in the community, especially family members and others as these principles assist individuals to be able to achieve

the good things of life & positive perceptions from a range of roles that are valued: to ensure the people we support are seen as the valuable people they are.

As part of our commitment to strengthening SRV beyond the theory workshops Foundations Forum has begun to reach out to participants to invite them to be part of a discussion that explores more around how to apply SRV and some of the challenges that may present. We had planned to host our first discussion in person in July 2021 on “Choice”, but the COVID outbreak delayed this to being online in September. We are looking forward to hosting these discussions regularly in 2022 along with being able to reach more people across rural areas of NSW.

Foundations Forum as a local SRV Group continues to support the efforts and work of the Australia Social Role Valorisation Association (ASRVA) and was pleased to be able to promote the SRV 10 online workshop ASRVA hosted in 2021. We look forward to continuing to support the efforts of ASRVA and with other local SRV groups and organisations that support SRV in sustaining the teaching and learning of SRV across Australia.

I would like to personally thank everyone on the Foundations Forum committee Alison, Judith, Karen, Neil and Samantha, and Julie, Kane, and Meg for their contributions on the Sub-committee of our ILC Grant Project, for their freely given time in supporting the efforts of the work we undertake. The last two years have significantly impacted on how we operate and the limits on what we can deliver but despite this we all remain passionate to the cause, and I have personally cherished the many discussions we have had of what is going on around us and making sense of it all particularly in the context of how we can improve people’s lives.

We are also appreciative of the work of our Project Coordinator Rosita Sunna who has been able to support us to deliver the workshops. Rosita’s contributions and efforts have made a significant impact and improvement to how we run our workshops and the wider reach of people we are able to promote and encourage SRV information and workshops to throughout NSW. We look forward to working with Rosita in 2022.

This year it has been 10 years that I have volunteered as a committee member for Foundations Forum. A big motivator for me is that I am passionate about others learning about SRV and being able to apply it to people they support or interact with, whether that be in a family, community, or work context. Through my own direct experience, I have seen the positive impact of having valued roles has on a person’s life, particularly for helping support enduring relationships and connections in a person’s life. I hope that in 2022 I can encourage others to come and support our work, we are always looking for new members and people who support and align with SRV to thinking about joining the committee or supporting us in other ways. We look forward to hearing from you in 2022!

Rhiannon Brodie
Chairperson