

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT TO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

July 1st 2018 to June 30th 2019

It is hard to believe that another 12 months have come around again since the last AGM. Despite the challenges of our times Foundations Forum has managed to maintain its commitment to providing opportunities for SRV education in NSW and within the 2018-2019 Financial Year we ran two Towards a Better Life Workshops in Sydney and had the opportunity to start planning for our one day workshop in August 2019 and a strategic planning session.

The first of our Towards a Better Life Workshop was held in November 2018 and Accredited Teacher of SRV Jane Sherwin presented this to 30 participants made up of family members, support workers, aged care, advocates, students and mental health.

The second workshop was held in May 2019 and Accredited Teacher of SRV John Armstrong presented to 20 participants. Feedback from both workshops continue to be positive and people having shared that this training has had a big impact on their thinking and mindset on how they can better support people they love or work with.

Throughout 2018-2019 the committee started to plan for the one-day workshop – Living well through valued roles and we held a strategic planning session to help us identify some priorities for the future with; Strengthening relationships with organisations and individuals, Leadership Development, running more workshops across NSW, strengthening the committee and looking at funding grant opportunities some of the key strategies that came out of the session. We thank Jane Sherwin for helping us draw out our ideas and lead us in this important work.

On a personal reflection as to why I personally commit to being involved with Foundations Forum and the broader SRV Community is that in these times of opportunity – with individualised funding for supports with the NDIS and My Aged Care packages and also in these time of uncertainty and the fast pace and changes to our society – we continue to see our most vulnerable be the one's that get left behind or are now seen as commodities or a \$\$ sign attached to them often with little thought of their real needs. I think in terms of how we try to support people who are struggling with all of the above, is we continue to offer them the framework and strategies that SRV offers them.

On that note I would like to thank the committee for their ongoing support and guidance and I know for us all, despite often juggling many thing ourselves in our own lives, to meet up on a

regular basis is a good opportunity for us to talk about these challenges and struggles that are occurring and be motivated to be part of something that is helping with addressing these.

There will be a couple of our committee members who will be stepping down from the committee and I personally like to thank Deb Maio and Alexa Kapust for their continuing support of SRV and I know will continue to be strong allies for Foundations Forum.

I would like to make an acknowledgement to Wendy McGlynn who has been involved with Foundations Forum for well over 20 years and during her time has held various position including Chairperson for many years and for me a personally an ongoing mentor to myself. Wendy has been the back-bone for Foundations Forum and has been at the heart of the work that we have carried out ensuring as a voluntary organisation that we continue to maintain a high standard of service and making new people feel welcome whether that is at a workshop or as new member. We will miss Wendy greatly and thank her for all that she has contributed to Foundations Forum.

The next year is already upon us and we look forward to welcoming new people to our workshops and continue to strengthen the efforts of our work and connect with other like-minded people.

Rhiannon Brodie
Chairperson