



CROSB

CTC Disability Support Services

supporting people with a disability in the communities of the South Burnett



newsletter 32

OCT-Nov 2011

CAC Meeting & QPPD Presentation

The CROSB Advisory Committee (CAC) met on 12 September, and the roll-up was pretty big!

I'd like to think it was because we were presenting our current working priorities but it was most probably because we had representatives from Queensland Parents for People with a Disability (QPPD) as part of an extended coffee morning.

Attendees engaged well with all of our discussions, but were especially fired-up about the new Disability Services System and how that might impact on their future plans / vision for themselves or family members with a disability.

"Growing Stronger" was a hot topic - and there is more about this on Page 2.

However, both in and out of the meeting (there was ample time for conversations during breaks and lunch) there was discussion about the importance of being clear about what one wants out of life and the need for any support services one uses to be aware and responsive to this.

Outside of the serious stuff, there was ample opportunity for attendees to mix, discuss, catch-up with each other and for QPPD to revisit old ties and forge new ones.



Relay For Life

Our CTC Disability Services Division took a lead role in facilitating CTC's participation in this year's Relay for Life, held at Nanango Showgrounds.

A big thanks to CROSB Support Worker Kim who rallied the troops throughout the organisation. Together we raised money and awareness.

As part of the efforts, CTC Headquarters hosted a "Friends and Supporters Lunch", (photos above), at CROSB House, which was a great success.

Thank you to all those CTC staff, community members and our many civic-minded folk in the South Burnett who made Relay for Life a great success.

CROSB ... enabling bigger dreams, better lives



Growing Concerns About 'Growing Stronger'

The new Disability Services System is progressively being implemented by the Department of Communities (Disability and Community Care).

It attempts to make a simple and accessible pathway for people with a disability to access services. As we have reported previously, there are a range of concerns and unintended consequences that service users, families, support services and even government staff have been identifying and raising appropriately.

CTC and CROSB have taken a lead role in providing a vehicle for these concerns to those who need to be aware of them. As Convenor of the Regional Disability Services Network, we have supported people with a disability and families to participate in important consultations with government.

Despite the feedback being provided by a range of people, families, services and advocacy groups, concerns remain about:

The assessment tools - which are focused on the person's impairment/s, not their support needs or plans for life and which are unnecessarily and upsettingly preoccupied with establishing that a person with a disability is a "burden", to their spouse, family or other carer/supporters;

Waiting times - for assessments, results of assessments and referral to a support service. Although it is made clear that although an individual may be eligible and registered for a service, that it is no guarantee of one, the enormity of demand, as compared with available services is not readily understood by those first entering the system;

Flexibility – services are finding it very difficult to meet even minor changes in need or preference quickly or seamlessly as was once possible;

Choice – over what kind of supports or services and from which service or services a person may choose;

Vacancy placement – people with a disability, families and advocates have long argued for a service response which is built around the person - them and their life and aspirations, not to come ready-made. In disability support services, one size does not fit all.

CROSB has recently made representations to senior departmental staff and the Minister's Office on the basis of this feedback.

Launch of Disability Services 10 Year Plan & 'Shared Visions' Conference

The new State Government 10-year action plan was launched by Minister Curtis Pitt at the "Shared Visions" conference.

The conference, held in Cairns in September, had an interesting session around the proposed (and yet to be confirmed) National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). Of course there is much excitement about what "might" happen with an NDIS. There is potential for more resources being available.

This, as well as the notion of entitlement to service, will do much to transform the disability services sector. Hopefully this will further empower people with a disability about the services they receive.

It wasn't explored too deeply however the discussion touched on reforming the existing service types. This would enable the growth of more modern support and service responses rather than see even more funding be channelled into less individualised service types. This has traditionally occurred when new, increased funding has been made available.

CTC and CROSB remains supportive of an NDIS and we encourage those who also support it to actively indicate this through the "Every Australian Counts", campaign; by contacting your local State and Federal MPs and letting them know; and by encouraging others – family, friends, the community groups to which you belong, to do the same.

Every Australian Counts:
www.everyaustraliancounts.com.au

Disability Service 10-Year Plan:
[www.communities.qld.gov.au/
disability](http://www.communities.qld.gov.au/disability)



CTC CROSB House Makeover

The staff of CTC CROSB have been showing their creative flair and commitment in recent weeks. Now nearly 10 years since CROSB House was established, it was time for a spruce, an update and a good old garden makeover!

Several working bees, gallons of shampoo and cleaner, approximately 75 hours of hedge trimming, garden edging, planting, replanting, mulch spreading and weeding has gone into producing a sparkling and very comfortable home.

Some lucky people got to spend a few hours of shopping, and we hope that the new furnishings and interior décor are to your liking if you spend any time there.

Thanks to the crew! All of whom put in a tremendous effort. As always, if you have a suggestion on how we could make your stay with us more pleasant, please let us know.



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Cyonic
IT Professionals
James Eckart
Proprietor, Administrator
and Systems Engineer

CTC CROSB gratefully acknowledges the support and donation of a new computer for CROSB House from Cyonic.

The computer gets plenty of use by those people staying at the house and is running much more efficiently and hassle-free than the old one. Thanks a Million!



Horizons: 17 December @ South Burnett Enterprise Centre - a second CTC CROSB Muster for 2011

Caring and supportive relationships, a meaningful community life (work, social and recreational life), good health, financial security and a home of your own are important building blocks for a good life.

These are the things which to a large extent both define us and reflect who we are.

In the lives of many people with a disability, planning to make life happen (which incorporates all of these domains) can be a critical element for a successful and enjoyable life.

CROSB talks about helping people "Dream Bigger". Throughout 2011 we have invited the people who use our services, as well as other people with a disability, families, services and allies to events promoting an inclusive vision for life.

Are you thinking about the future? What's possible? What's important? Where you can get support? What about services? Getting older? Want to move into your own place? Need to make plans to reach your goals? Feeling restricted by what people tell you is possible? Not sure about how to get it all to happen?

In December we are planning to hold another, practical workshop that will be of interest to those people considering their "next big change".

The communities of the South Burnett offer many opportunities for the "community belonging" and participation of people with a disability; opportunities which are inherent to the nature of country life.

In many ways we can't help but be involved in our communities, districts and neighbourhoods.

However people do experience barriers. Often people need supports which aren't in place, can have their options limited by distance, by the kinds of services traditionally available as well as the many messages that society sends about what is a possible life for a person with a disability.

As we get older the adage "Life is what happens while you make other plans", becomes increasingly meaningful. In the lives of people with a disability, the life you get can be affected to a greater extent by what's on offer, rather than what you'd prefer.

It can be difficult to dare to be different; to have broader horizons and aim for them.

Plans are currently being made for a workshop which will be of interest to people with a disability, families, supporters and allies which will centre on planning for an inclusive and safeguarded future.

It will include building your vision (and writing it down!), looking at needed and available resources, and making a plan to get it to happen.

The workshop will focus on:

The elements of a good life

Supports, service systems and safeguards

And finally, strategies

As more details are confirmed, we will let you know so that you can plan to attend.

The workshop will be especially of interest to people with a disability who want to move their life in new directions and older families with a son or daughter with a disability.

How do you feel about CROSB staff and services?

PHONE
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Happy?



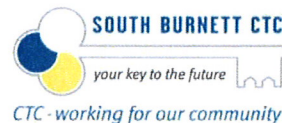
Sad?



Talk to our
Service
Manager,
your Support
Worker or
Advocate

Or write to us
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**If so, please tell us?
We want to help you!**



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