

## Chairman's Report

Continued growth has once again been the challenge for the Foundation. The formal opening of Darling Mills in September by Minister Paul Primrose, and the subsequent handover of management responsibilities of Tully from ADHC, has therefore been a significant achievement.

The Board took the opportunity during this past year to review the way it meets its obligations. Firstly and importantly it reviewed its Memorandum and Articles which had previously reflected more a 1970-80's style operation. I would like to say thank you for the wonderful work undertaken in this regard by Board members John Chaplin and Lynda Wright.

Subsequently we spent important time reviewing and developing our Board Governance role and our Risk Management Plan. As a result of this work we reviewed our Delegations and restated our Board committee charters.

Operating Board committees are now:

- **Practices Review Committee**-Board members: Chris Townend Chair and Professor Sandra Jones. It is important to acknowledge the other members of the Committee: Sheila Frater; Clients' parents Kerry Hobbs and Karen Thompson; Consultant Nurse Deb Charlton; and staff members Jon Parry and Patrick Covarrubias.
- **Remuneration Committee**-Board members: John Chaplin Chair, Chris Townend and Lynda Wright.
- **Audit and Risk Management Committee**- Board members: Simon Kaleski Chair and Patrick Roberts. Ken Dixon is also on the Committee.

With these committees and their new Charters in place we are better able to meet our obligation of planning ahead and acting professionally.

During this past year we were, with the support of Board member Professor Sandra Jones, able to "tap in" to resources at Wollongong University and to develop a Cram community profile. This has assisted the Board in better understanding how we are viewed in our community and, as importantly, the impact we have on the community that we operate in. In this latter regard we should not lose sight of the fact that we are a significant employer in our local community. The research was undertaken by Kevin Bertao, a graduate student of Wollongong University.

Another important University research project was undertaken by Ms Laura Robinson and Ms Joanne Telenta under the supervision of Board member Professor Sandra Jones. The purpose of the project was to identify a more appropriate tool that assessed the needs of Cram Clients. This information would then enable us to apply for a more adequate level of funding to be made available to meet those needs.

A great strength of the Foundation is its continued commitment to an ongoing education program. To quote our Manager Disability Services, Shelia Frater *“This continuum of learning is what helps us stay in tune with current research, brings forth new ideas and helps us continually improve our performance”*.

We continue to operate our service with insufficient funding in respect to the day to day running of our Homes. Our current Funding Agreement with ADHC still falls short in meeting the budgeted needs of the Homes. Whilst this shortfall remains we will continue to be challenged in our efforts to provide the high level of service for which Cram is so well known.

The Board continues to believe that it is important for our staff to have an opportunity to input into Cram’s planning initiatives. We will again be holding Strategic Planning meetings involving Board members and senior management. We have invited our Disability Services Minister Andrew Constance to this meeting, to be held in February 2012, and hope that he can attend for some of the time. We have also invited our local Member of Parliament Gareth Ward to visit Cram; this visit is scheduled for December.

There have been no new Board appointments during the year. Our existing Board makes a wonderful team bringing with them a breadth of skills that ensures our capacity to deal with a range of challenges. I am so impressed with their commitment to the important role they undertake.

The continued support of ADHC and its Regional staff is very much appreciated. The visits to Cram this year by the then incumbent Disability Services Minister is recognition of this support.

To the staff of the Foundation; well done. We remain successful because we have such a well trained, dedicated group of people who understand the importance of their role and its impact on the lives of our clients.

To CEO Ken Dixon, and Manager Disability Services Shelia Frater who provide wonderful leadership and inspiration to their staff; I offer my heartfelt thanks to you for your drive and your commitment as well to your understanding of the role that we are required to provide to a client base that is so dependent and so deserving of the best we can provide..

*Pat Roberts*  
*Chairman*