

# Executive Director's Report

## Introduction

It has been an interesting and effective year, with a focus on the influence of the National Disability Insurance Scheme on the lives of people with a disability and on CBS Inc. CBS has continued to focus on increasing and improving life opportunities for our clients and to listen and respond to their suggestions and advice to improve our service. At the same time, competition continues to increase in the further commercialisation of disability services in Australia.

## Focus and Future

Internally we have been further developing the skills and knowledge of staff, and the benefits of infrastructure investment around the state are all paying dividends to our participants. Our lost time from WorkCover and sick leave remains proudly low, but I do notice that each time we come towards major Business Reallocation dates with our Jobnet Employment Program DES Contracts e.g. 30 June 2016, our improving staff retention rates take a negative hit. This is disappointing when staff who I believe are committed to supporting people with a disability decide to leave and many are seeking employment in other sectors. Job certainty is significant in keeping staff in the disability sector and the introduction and increased demand on labour through the NDIS will create more interest here.

The last year has seen further increased stress on employment within South Australia especially in the Port Pirie, Port Augusta, Whyalla and Northern Metropolitan Adelaide Regions. There has been well advertised losses of significant businesses and employment opportunities in these regions creating major challenges. In pursuit of increasing communication, information and innovation in these regions, our staff have rolled out a series of regional business breakfasts and idea generation events. CBS is entrenched in these regions, we are not just passing through. We see ourselves as owners and long term contributors to help meet local challenges.

CBS has been in these regions now for many years and we are committed to make a positive difference. Senior CBS staff and I have been meeting with local members of parliament and community leaders to discuss the issues and to suggest opportunities and actions to respond favourably to a major serious lack of employment opportunities in these regions.

In the recreation and arts areas of CBS, we had three public exhibitions during the year, at Eastwood, Salisbury and Hahndorf. This is equal to our most in the history of CBS and indicates our continued commitment and belief in the important place art has in the lives of people in our community. Our recreation and day options staff continue to gear up for the NDIS.

The support for the CBS Inc Amelia Rix Award continues to grow as an increased number of participants benefit from recognition and financial prizes. The Award really does help to change people's lives for the better and the impact of an expanded volunteer committee is leading to new ventures including the spreading of the Award further into rural regions of the state.

Our CBS Moonlight Speakers and MC Consumer Leadership Group received training through the recognised public speaker – Vinh Giang. There are five participants of CBS services who are leaders and have completed training to be effective and entertaining public speakers and Masters of Ceremonies (MCs). Moonlight Speakers and MCs is soon to be launched as an additional CBS Inc. social enterprise business similar to Community Concierge SA, providing specialised alternative career opportunities.

We are gearing up to celebrate our 20th Birthday in September and look forward to a continued positive future. I'd like to acknowledge our Board of Directors for their support and encouragement – especially Alison Perrott (Chairman), Lukasz Wojniak (Consumer Nominee), Gary Sampson (Deputy Chairman) and Trevor Pearce (Treasurer). I want to thank our CBS team of staff for their good work and support to people with a disability. I would like to recognise and thank all the guest speakers at events including the Young Guru Sessions (support for developing leaders within CBS), our funding providers and supporters:

- individual clients and their families
- employers of our clients
- the late Barbara Rix OAM and Ted Rix
- Robyn Copeland and Sharyn Rutter re Amelia Rix Award
- Commonwealth Department of Social Services (DSS)
- Department for Communities and Social Inclusion (DCSI)
- TAFE SA Gilles Plains, Modbury, and Regency Campuses
- Orana Inc.
- Strathmont Centre/Disability SA
- City of Tea Tree Gully
- City of Burnside
- City of Port Adelaide and Enfield
- Eastwood Community Centre and the City of Unley
- Aurora on Pirie Community Corporation
- Autism SA
- Government and Independent Schools
- Complete Personnel SA Pty Ltd
- Flinders University
- Diamond Clubhouse.



Freddie Brincat OAM

Could not fault them.