

CEO REPORT FOR THE 2008/09 FINANCIAL YEAR

The pace at CFQ is always fast with little time between the many and varied projects that we undertake every twelve months.

This makes our workload more intense each year and, to add to this, our client numbers have increased in the last 4 years by 26%. This is due to a number of factors including: people with CF living longer; migration to Queensland from interstate; and people moving to Australia because doctors tell them this is a better climate for their disease than Europe or Britain.

As a long term issue, our client numbers are now closer to 50/50 in relation of children to adults. This statistic has a marked effect on the type of services that we offer and services that we need to work toward providing.

We have now been without a Business Development Manager since early December 2008. This has definitely been an issue for the organization. However, despite this and the economic downturn, we have continued to run our fundraising events as planned – if not quite as successfully.

The downturn really started to affect us by August 2008 and was reflected in the figure we made at our Brisbane Luncheon - around 35% less than the previous year – a statistic that has continued with all of our events since.

Trek for Life was introduced as a new event – this was developed when a number of corporate supporters said they would back this fundraiser and send their staff along. However, by the time we were ready to take bookings, the world had changed and support for this event disappeared. Consequently, this event has never been run.

Community fundraising is an area that has experienced growth. Over the past twelve months we have had some large events organised on our behalf (as well as a number of smaller ones). This has resulted in just under \$160,000 being raised for CFQ.

I am pleased to report that we have been very successful this financial year in attracting Grants - for both ongoing programs as well as some new innovations. I am particularly proud of the New Parents Information DVD and booklet we have developed, with the help of key hospital staff. This has been created for parents to take home with them when their child has been diagnosed with CF. This information helps parents understand and care for their new CF baby for the first 12 – 18 months of the child's life.

We have been able to continue to provide an extensive service to clients living throughout Queensland. Sibling weekends have been changed and are now run on a day during the school holidays with the venues extended to reach all the major regional towns of Queensland as well as Brisbane. Earlier in the year we held our first day on the Gold Coast and this was a huge success.

This year also saw our first Remembrance Day – this has not been held for six years and, while only a few attended, it was pronounced a great success by those who were there.

We have been working on developing relationships with various organizations that could offer CFQ or our clients a service. This has included liaising with some Community Services regarding the need for our clients to sometimes require home physiotherapy. We have also developed a relationship with Variety who have helped a number of our clients over the past year. We continue to work closely with schools throughout Queensland who require support from us when they have a child with CF in their classrooms.

Earlier in the year we asked the parents of children with CF and our adult clients to evaluate our provision of services. We didn't receive an overwhelming response to our request, however, those that did reply were very satisfied with our service and had little to say on how we could improve.

During this past year it became very obvious that our office building needed a refurbishment. This was fully costed, however, we are no longer in a position to consider this project.

We were forced to install a new data base and this has been very difficult for us to use. We are still endeavoring to understand this system.

Quite a large amount of my time has been taken up this year attending committee meetings for the New Children's Hospital. It would now appear that the government is going to disband these committees.

One constant factor throughout this difficult year has been the support of a very committed Board. I would like to sincerely thank Damian, and all the Board members, for their support of both the organization and myself.

As you can see from the above, for CFQ to do as much as we have, we need to have a team of committed staff. We certainly called on that commitment when we cancelled the Tour de Kawana - and then ran both it and the Ball within two weeks of each other. Our days can be very long and this is certainly the case when our Services people travel to regional clinics. I would like to make a special thanks to all the staff for their work this year.

Jane Andersen
Chief Executive Officer