

PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR THE 2008/09 FINANCIAL YEAR

It gives me great pleasure to present my first report to the Members of Cystic Fibrosis Queensland.

I probably could not have chosen a more difficult year to accept the Presidency of a not-for-profit organization than the one we have just had – and I certainly hope that next year does not surpass this one for all of us concerned here at CFQ.

The economic downturn has had a substantial effect on our organization. We have lost some sponsors as they struggle with the current economic conditions. In addition to that the outpouring of support for the terrible Victorian bushfire victims has impacted sponsorship and donations for all of the other charities around the country. Overall our events have returned around 35% less than the previous year with less people participating in events and when we have auctions we are experiencing lower levels of expenditure. I am also sorry to report that the government has not reviewed their support of CFQ which remains at 6% of our budget, which means that we have to raise \$94 in every \$100 we spend.

In spite of these constraints we have continued to move forward in the past year, with the highlight being the opening of a new service on the Sunshine Coast. We have employed two staff who both work 3 days a week – one in Services and the other as a fundraiser. This service has been adopted eagerly by the parents, adults with CF as well as the medical staff on the Sunshine Coast.

On November 29 we held a Strategic Planning Day which was attended by both Board Members and the Support Services Manager and CEO. I believe that this gave us the opportunity to consider options for CFQ in these stressful times as well as explore the possibilities of where we might take this organization.

We have taken part in a similar process, although a lot more lengthy one with the State Associations and CFA. One of the important outcomes of this process has been agreement that the Cystic Fibrosis movement in Australia will move forward as a Federation with a flat line membership made up of the state organisations and CFA. We are hopeful that this is the first step towards the establishment of a truly cooperative, coordinated national organisation.

The new Governor of Queensland, Her Excellency Penelope Wensley has agreed to be out Patron. Jane and I met with her during the year at Government House where we had the opportunity to brief her on the work of CFQ as well as the challenges we face. She is very supportive of our organisation.

On behalf of Gerry Lawlor's family we were thrilled to be told that the Research Trust was naming a Scholarship for PhD students after him to honor the work that Gerry had done on behalf of cystic fibrosis and Cystic Fibrosis Queensland.

We have had something of a changing of the guard on your board in the past year. Board members who have left are Carl Bruhn, Bernie Crew and John Reed and

Kathryn Sugrue. In addition Board members Michael Callow and Helen Spencer will not be continuing their role in the coming year. I am very pleased to announce the recent appointment to the board of Mr Richard Moore who is State Manager of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. I also note that we are currently in discussions with a number of talented individuals who have expressed interest in joining our Board. I would also like to congratulate Board member Margaret Walker for her recent appointment to the Board of CFA. Thank you to all board members for their work on the board and for their hands on role in so many important tasks undertaken by CFQ during this difficult year.

Finally I would like to say a heartfelt thanks to your CEO Jane Anderson and her very dedicated management team, as well as the large, merry band of volunteers who contribute so much towards what this organisation is all about- the care and support for CF sufferers and their families. The board is sincerely grateful for your efforts and your achievements.

On behalf of the Board I look forward to the challenges and opportunities in front of us all in the coming year.

Damian Brown