

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

If someone had told me 30 years ago that I would be spending this long associated with any single entity, I would have laughed at them. Now, having been a member of the Executive Committee of Community and Youth Training Services since its inception, it is with great regret that I must resign from the Committee to follow a major career path opportunity.

I am immensely proud of CYTS and all that it has achieved over the last 30 years. It has never lost its focus in providing accredited training along with a vast array of support services for its clients.

With a client base of the most disadvantaged people in society, often living in difficult domestic circumstances and usually experiencing a range of obstacles in their personal lives, CYTS has never failed to find a way to engage and support people to help them on their way to a better future. I never cease to be impressed by what new strategies have been implemented to reach a new individual or audience being overlooked by other mainstream services.

There have been many unsettling periods during these years where, due to funding policy changes, CYTS has had funding delayed or halted. With each situation, CYTS has changed the way it operates to accommodate altered income streams while also taking its fight to higher powers to reveal the injustices and impacts of Government decisions on the not-for-profit sector, registered training organisations, clients and staff alike.

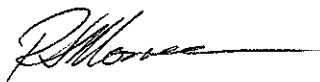
CYTS has been instrumental in meeting the training needs of people in prisons and other custodial environments, who have not been able to be serviced by the traditional training provided in those establishments. To its credit, the majority of these clients have been Aboriginal women, unable to connect with TAFE because of eligibility criteria or low literacy and numeracy. This arrangement has enabled many such women to reconnect and continue their education on release from prison, while taking advantage of the other support services and linkages into other community based organisations that can assist in their transition and re-establishment into the community.

Each person currently working within CYTS has shown their passion and commitment to the mission of the organisation in 'offering an alternative learning environment for individuals from diverse backgrounds'.

Having recently gained the status of a registered Public Benevolent Institution and endorsed for income tax exemption, GST concessions and FBT exemption, CYTS has a better chance of attracting the attention of some major philanthropic individuals and organisations that may be interested in supporting the needs of disadvantaged people.

As a small, stand-alone community based, not-for-profit organisation, CYTS has had a positive impact on many people's lives over a period of 30 years, it is something I am very proud to have been a part of. It is of great testament to the people who have managed, and worked at, CYTS over the years.

With Michael Robinson as the incoming Chairperson, and knowing some of his background and ongoing commitment and belief in this organisation, I am quite sure that CYTS is in good hands. I wish Michael, the Executive Committee and all CYTS staff a long and fulfilling future.



Rick Morrell

20 October 2015