The forum will take stock of how far we have come – and how far we have yet to go – in pursuing genuinely inclusive lives for people with disabilities. It will reflect on the Queensland context - what continues to challenge and elude us in the struggle for inclusion, from early childhood education through to adult life - and how we might address those barriers.

Forum participants will hear about local and Canadian initiatives making a difference to the lives of people with disability. As we stand poised to roll-out the NDIS in Qld, the forum will provide a timely opportunity to analyse how we can move beyond the shallow rhetoric of inclusion and be more effective leaders for real community inclusion.

The Forum will discuss:

- International evidence and examples of success in inclusive education from early childhood through to post-secondary education
- Innovative and successful initiatives in employment, recreation and community living
- Ways self-directed supports can be used to promote inclusive lives across the lifespan
- The crucial role of families and how advocacy for inclusion can be strengthened
- Effective leadership and partnerships for inclusion which enable people with disability to take their rightful place as contributing citizens

Keynote Presenter:

Bruce Uditsky is CEO, Inclusion Alberta, and Adjunct Professor, University of Calgary. He is an internationally respected leader for change with a proven track record for innovation over many decades, particularly in the areas of post-secondary inclusive education, family leadership and employment for people with disability. He advises government, and presents and consults internationally on inclusion, social justice, family advocacy and community capacity. He is the parent of two adult children, one of whom has intellectual disability.
Who should attend?

This leadership event will be very relevant for anyone who wants to contribute to building more inclusive lifestyles and communities for people with disability. It focuses on whole of life inclusion. It will include presentations relevant to all stages of life, building from a focus on the school years to include discussion of post-secondary inclusive education, employment, recreation and how people with disability can more authentically belong to community. It will be valuable for people with disability, family members, educators, service workers, community workers, advocates and allies.

Keynote Presenter:

Dr Anne Hughson is Associate Professor and a respected academic and researcher at the University of Calgary. Over decades she has collaborated with Inclusion Alberta as a co-developer and facilitator of the Association’s internationally recognised family leadership series and has also developed community inclusion projects in child welfare, inclusive education, regional family advocacy networks and individualised funding. She has written extensively on post-secondary inclusive education, leadership and community inclusion.

Other Presenters will include:

Ann Greer is well-known as a parent leader, service co-ordinator and presenter. She is the Manager of Community Connection in Townsville, an organisation she helped to establish in the early 1990s. Community Connection was established to provide individual customised support for people with disability to build a good life based on full and valued participation in community. Ann has particular skills in the areas of behavioural strategies, communication and lifestyle planning and she is also the mother of 3 adults, two of whom live with disability. She has a long history of working to promote community inclusion as both a family member and worker, including with people at particular risk of community exclusion.

Glenys Mann is a teacher and parent advocate. She has been a leader in inclusive education in Queensland, including work with the Down Syndrome Association of Qld supporting schools and families to achieve effective inclusive education. She was a long-term member of the inclusive education network of Qld Parents for People with a Disability and authored QPPD Publications “Diving for Pearls” and “I Choose Inclusion”. She has lectured and tutored on inclusive education to tertiary students and is currently completing her PhD at UQ. She has a keen interest in SRV theory and what promotes and undermines successful inclusion.

Natalie Swayn is Director of the Autism Hub in the Queensland Department of Education and Training, a new initiative to improve educational outcomes for students with autism so they can develop as confident learners in safe, supportive inclusive environments. The Autism Hub is also committed to partnerships and collaborations with schools, parents and communities. Natalie has worked as a teacher, advisor and director in the Queensland Department of Education for fifteen years and has a strong interest in systems theory, decision making and school discipline and disability practices.

Need some assistance with fees?

CRU has some capacity to reduce registration fees and assist with other costs, particularly for people with disability and family members not sponsored by an organisation. Contact CRU for more information.

To view CRU’s cancellation policy please visit this link – http://cru.org.au/about/policies/#cancellation