

# Enabling Good Lives

## Supporting school leavers with disabilities

Welcome to our first newsletter about Enabling Good Lives and how it is supporting disabled people by offering greater choice and control over the supports they receive and the lives they lead.



Christchurch has been chosen for a demonstration of Enabling Good Lives and the first to benefit from this new approach will be young people, aged 18–21 years, with high and very high ORS funding who are leaving school in November this year. The demonstration will be extended to include a much wider range of disabled people as it progresses over the next three years. More about this will be included in the next newsletter.

What is different about Enabling Good Lives is that health, education and social development funding will be in a single package that can be used flexibly, whether it is for the school leaver's employment, education, training, sports, recreation or connections within their community. As a result people can tailor their supports to lead the life they want rather than being told when, where and how they will be supported.

To get Enabling Good Lives underway, we are employing a team of 'navigators' to walk alongside young people with disabilities and their families/whānau to help them make plans for their future and build connections within their communities.

A Local Advisory Group, made up of disabled people, family members and disability sector representatives, is providing local leadership to the Christchurch demonstration of Enabling Good Lives, while a National Leadership Group is giving advice to Ministers and senior officials.

There is enormous excitement about this project and I look forward to working with a wide range of individuals and agencies to help young disabled people and their families/whānau achieve a good life.

**Gordon Boxall**

Director, Christchurch Enabling Good Lives Demonstration

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# What Inspired Enabling Good Lives?

**A 2007 Social Services Select Committee inquiry heard that people with disabilities often felt they had little control over the services they received. Funding was also found to be relatively inflexible.**

Enabling Good Lives came about as a result of the 2007 inquiry and a report from a group of people from the disability sector, who were asked in 2011 to review day options for disabled people. They concluded a fundamental shift in the disability support system was needed to give disabled people greater choice and control over their supports and their lives.

In September, the following year the Ministerial Committee on Disability Issues agreed this level of change was needed. The Christchurch disability community and sector were then invited to develop a proposal for demonstrating Enabling Good Lives in Canterbury.

Earlier this year, Cabinet approved Christchurch as a demonstration site for Enabling Good Lives and last month we got underway.

To read more about how Enabling Good Lives came about please go to:

[www.odi.govt.nz](http://www.odi.govt.nz)  
and search for Enabling Good Lives.

Another initiative that arose from the 2007 inquiry is the Ministry of Health's New Model for Supporting Disabled People which has been demonstrating Choice in Community Living in Auckland and Waikato, along with Enhanced Individualised Funding and Local Area Coordination in the Eastern and Western Bay of Plenty. Elements of these demonstrations will be used in helping to establish Enabling Good Lives in Christchurch.

For more information about the New Model visit:

[www.health.govt.nz](http://www.health.govt.nz)  
and search for New Model.

# Meet the team

## Well-known advocate appointed as manager



Kia ora. My name is Ruth Jones and I have been employed as the Manager – Families

and Community Development for Enabling Good Lives in Christchurch. It is great to be working in this exciting role. The demonstration is a chance to try new things in new ways so that young disabled people and their

families can look to the future and see the opportunities ahead.

I am Rongowhakaata, Te Aitanga ā Māhaki and Ngāti Porou. I was born in Christchurch and have spent most of my life here.

As someone who lives with the experience of disability, I am committed to ensuring that diverse peoples including Māori and disabled people have equal opportunities and can be an integral part of the new Christchurch.

My husband Gary (who is a member of the EGL Local Advisory Group) and I want to make sure that the foundations for an accessible city are in place and that disabled people's voices are included in the recovery and rebuild of Christchurch.

I am a qualified social worker and have worked in the disability sector as a practitioner and manager locally and nationally for the last 20 years. I have also worked in the tertiary education sector as a tutor in Human and Social Services and held advisory roles with the Christchurch City Council and NGO (non-government organisation) sectors.

I am excited about Enabling Good Lives and continuing to work with families and communities in supporting disabled people to dream what is possible, reach their potential and be truly included in everything Christchurch offers now and in the future.

# Meet the team continued...

## New navigator to walk alongside school leavers and families

Hello. My name is Hannah Perry and I am the first Enabling Good Lives navigator to walk alongside school leavers with disabilities and their families/whānau as they make decisions about their future.



*Navigator Hannah Perry has worked with people with disabilities as a volunteer in the Cook Islands.*

I am looking forward to meeting school leavers and their families and helping them explore what 'life after school' might look like. What a good life means will be different for every person, every whānau, so it is helping

people to identify what their dreams are and taking the first steps towards realising these.

Some people might be interested in working, further education, flatting, joining clubs, sports or developing relationships.

The things that school leavers are typically working towards, have often been considered 'not possible' for young people with disabilities, yet it's these things that give so much value to our lives. Enabling Good Lives is a great opportunity to look past the label of 'disability' and instead think about being a strong human being, living in a supportive healthy community.

I am a trained Speech Language Therapist and working out how to connect and communicate with people who do not use words to

communicate. This is a very real, very worthwhile challenge. My interests include Autism Spectrum Disorder and New Zealand Sign Language and I facilitate ASD Plus; a parent education programme for families of preschoolers with Autism Spectrum Disorder. I have worked in Christchurch and other parts of New Zealand with children and adults with a variety of disabilities since I was at high school and also with disabled people in the Cook Islands as a volunteer.

As well as working as a navigator three days a week, I will continue to work with SAMS (Standards and Monitoring Services) which promotes raising the quality of life and inclusion in the community for adults with disabilities across New Zealand.

## Years of experience in new Director



*Hi. My name is Gordon Boxall. I am the Director of Christchurch's Enabling Good Lives (EGL)*

demonstration and a co-author of the 2012 plan for implementing the EGL approach in Canterbury. I also live on Banks Peninsula and co-ordinated the Ministry of Health's response, for providers of services to disabled people, after the Canterbury earthquakes.

My experience of listening to disabled people and families is that they want the same as the rest of society. As someone put it recently, 'having somewhere to live, something to do and someone to love'.

Traditionally people have had to fit into services that have been provided through different parts of government. Some disability support providers have been pushing for change so that they can offer more creative community-based supports, reflecting what people who use their services want. Enabling Good Lives supports this by shifting control towards local people and local communities, which is very much in

line with what people said they wanted during consultation about this new approach.

With more than 35 years of experience in the health, housing and disability sectors, I am very excited by this project and its potential to make a substantial difference to the lives of many disabled people. Before joining the Enabling Good Lives team I was supporting the Ministry of Health's demonstration of Choice in Community Living (CICL) in Auckland and Waikato. CICL offers alternatives to residential services for people with significant disabilities.

# Disability sector well-represented on Local Advisory Group



**Caption:** **Left image:** John Grant, Sally Thomas, Linda Leishman, Gary Williams, Ruth Teasdale, Tracey Dorreen and Matthew Whiting. **Right image:** Richard Buchanan.

**The Enabling Good Lives Local Advisory Group includes disabled people, family members and other disability sector leaders in Christchurch. It will work on the design of the Enabling Good Lives demonstration and oversee its development.**

The Local Advisory Group has considerable experience and encompasses a wide cross-section of disability and support organisations including CCS Disability Action, Disabled Persons Assembly, SkillWise, the New Zealand Federation of Vocational and Support Services, Manawanui and the Canterbury branch of the Association of Blind Citizens.

The eight members of the EGL Local Advisory Group are Richard Buchanan, Tracey Dorreen, John Grant, Linda Leishman, Ruth Teasdale, Sally Thomas, Matthew Whiting and Gary Williams.

## Richard Buchanan

I am Manawanui's National Projects and Contracts Manager and have previously served with the organisation as a coach and area manager. As a member of the Enabling Good Lives Canterbury Steering Group, I have also co-facilitated disabled persons forums and have lived experience of disability.

## Tracey Dorreen

I am an active member and contributor to the Association of Blind Citizens, Canterbury and represented the Canterbury branch at both local and national events to share the views and issues of blind and vision impaired people within the Canterbury region. I am a member of the Christchurch City Council Disability Advisory Group and have been involved in discussions about Enabling Good Lives since 2012.

## John Grant

I am a member of the Enabling Good Lives (EGL) National Network Group and I am general manager of SkillWise which has been undergoing service transformation (Utopia) aimed at providing more personalised, self-directed and community inclusive supports. I am also President of the New Zealand Federation of Vocational and Support Services (VASS).

## Linda Leishman

I have lived experience of disability through my adult son. I have worked as Manager of Lead School Transition and have a good understanding of the challenges facing youth and their families as they transition from school. My current role is Deputy Principal of Ferndale School and I am also a board member of SkillWise.

## Ruth Teasdale

I am Regional Manager Upper South of CCS Disability Action and have experiences in service development and change management in community-based mental health and disability services. I have 15 years' senior management experience in the Non Government Organisation sector.

## Sally Thomas

I have lived experience of disability through my adult son and have previously worked for Lead School Transition. I have a family support liaison role at Ferndale School and I am a board member of the Chris Ruth Centre which provides workplace participation programmes to people with multiple disabilities.



## Matthew Whiting

I am a Disabled Persons Assembly (DPA) representative, a current National Executive Committee member and have many years' experience on the DPA board. I also work at CCS Disability Action as a service coordinator. I was one of the first people on a pilot scheme for Individualised Funding in 1999 and I believe in flexibility, not simply trying to fit people into boxes ...

## Gary Williams

I am Ngāti Porou. My roles include being a member of the national Enabling Good Lives Leadership Group and on the Boards of Imagine Better and the Standards and Monitoring Services. I have experience of most models of support and have worked for decades in the disability sector.

## Positive Response to EGL Community Meetings

Several community meetings were held for school leavers with disabilities and their families/whānau last month to discuss Enabling Good Lives (EGL) and in particular what it could offer this year. The discussions were then followed by separate meetings with providers/schools and officials from the various ministries that are supporting EGL.

"Many school leavers and their families were a bit fearful of leaving the safety of the school environment and uncertain about what their futures would hold. The key things the young people wanted were to live in a flat, get a job and have a good social life," says Gordon Boxall, Director of Enabling Good Lives.

"We acknowledge that we have started late in the year but want to ensure all school leavers this year have the opportunity to discuss their options with an Enabling Good Lives navigator," he says. "EGL will also seek to build on good transition plans from schools and collaborate with existing initiatives like Going Places and service providers, many of whom will be working with young people after the school holidays."

"From early next year we will be working with all students with high or very high ORS funding, their families and whānau and their schools. EGL will also include opportunities for other disabled people next year and we will be working with community groups."

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## Questions and answers

**Enabling Good Lives is available to all 2013 Christchurch school leavers, aged 18 – 21 years, with high or very high needs ORS funding. Up to 10 more people who receive disability support in or near Christchurch will also have the opportunity to opt in.**

### What can we access?

- A navigator to walk alongside school leavers and their families as they plan and pursue a good life.
- Flexible funding for the things that people with disabilities need to live a good life. This will involve existing funding for disability supports being pooled by the Ministries of Education, Health and Social Development. This funding may be used for a variety of things including supports in your local community, employing people to assist or using supports from a provider or agency.

### What will the navigator do?

A navigator is an ally for you and your family/whānau. If you want a navigator, they can help you (and your family) to dream about what is possible and plan for your future. This could involve you being a part of your community, being supported by the people who care about you and using additional resources that you decide best suit your needs. A navigator will support you for up to six months on a regular basis.

## Do funders know about EGL and are they ready?

The funders (Ministries of Education, Health and Social Development), are all signed up to Enabling Good Lives and are busy working behind the scenes to bring together their systems and resources to ensure it can work as smoothly as possible.

## Do people need to be receiving individualised funding to be involved with Enabling Good Lives?

All eligible school leavers are able to receive support through Enabling Good Lives, regardless of whether they are receiving Individualised Funding (IF).

## Where does Going Places fit with Enabling Good Lives?

The work being done by students and their support teams in schools will continue. Navigators will work collaboratively with a student's support team to build on the work already done in school.

## Will EGL affect my current relationships with providers?

No. It is business as usual. Once you have access to your pooled funding, you can decide how you want to use it, which may include the support of a provider you already use or exploring other options.

## What is EGL's relationship with ACC?

ACC is part of the joint agency group overseeing EGL, along with the Ministries of Health, Education and Social Development. Along with these other Ministries, ACC is working hard to ensure that their support aligns to the principles of EGL. Over time consideration will be given to whether and how disabled people supported under ACC could be part of EGL.

## How are you going to measure EGL's success?

Success will be based on how we are achieving the principles of EGL. You can visit [www.odi.govt.nz](http://www.odi.govt.nz) to read these principles. Work on how EGL will be evaluated has already begun. At the end of the three-year demonstration, the evaluation results will go to Cabinet for review.

## Where do I find out more?

### Gordon Boxall

Director

**e** [gordon@eglives.co.nz](mailto:gordon@eglives.co.nz)

**p** 021 587 772

### Ruth Jones

Manager of families and community development

**e** [ruth@eglives.co.nz](mailto:ruth@eglives.co.nz)

**p** 027 440 8573

### Our website

A website is also being established and will be available very shortly. In the meantime please go to [www.odi.govt.nz](http://www.odi.govt.nz) for further written information.

### Our newsletters

Regular newsletters will also be emailed to you if you are on the EGL mailing list.

### Sign up

If you are not on the mailing list and would like to be added, please email [michele@eglives.co.nz](mailto:michele@eglives.co.nz).