

Enabling Good Lives

Christchurch

Director's Report

Gordon Boxall

Director Enabling Good Lives



Welcome to the 10th Enabling Good Lives, Christchurch Newsletter which has the usual mix of inspiring stories from participants along with information about the current hot topics we are dealing with.

I was fortunate to be visiting the Kimi Ora Unit the morning after Graduation recently and the air was full of celebration and excitement about achievement and success. No doubt that was replicated in schools across the city. A great reminder about how such positivity, if properly harnessed, can lead to society benefiting greatly from the contributions of young disabled adults.

It is an important time for the Local Advisory Group who will be working closely with local staff from the ministries and funding agencies to guide the final months of the Demonstration and to ensure that we have everything we need in place for when the Demonstration finishes at the end of June 2016. Rest assured that this should not affect those of you who are participants as you will continue to be able to access your pooled, personalised funding in the same way. Please see the website for details of who is on the Local Advisory Group representing your interests and feel free to contact them directly as well.

New features continue to be developed with an intention to make things easier and in response to what you tell us whether through the Feedback Loop which is highlighted in this edition or by you getting in touch with us directly. Please feel free always to do this about any aspect of your experience of Enabling Good Lives. It is equally as important to know what isn't working as what is.

We are excited with the opportunities that the new Flexible Disability Support Contract arrangements will open up for participants and look forward to being able to provide some examples of this in a future edition.

Look out for updates to the website, check out the Director's video blog and sign up to the Enabling Good Lives Facebook group which is intended as an open resource solely for participants and families.

On behalf of the Enabling Good Lives Team, I take this opportunity to wish all readers a safe, enjoyable and fun festive season. We will be going to the wire so feel free to keep in touch up to and including Christmas Eve after which we will all be taking a break but returning from 5th January onwards.

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Enabling Good Lives and Provider Connections

Richard Buchanan, Manager of Provider Relationships and Personalised Funding

It is hard to believe that we are beginning to think about Christmas already with still so much yet to do this year! There have been a number of exciting developments recently that continue to contribute to increased purchasing options for EGL participants as well as supporting providers to be able to deliver a range of tailored and flexible supports to people.

A significant step forward has occurred with the introduction of Flexible Disability Support contracts within the Christchurch Demonstration. Providers who succeed in gaining these contracts are able to do things like host participants funding, assist participants to purchase supports from other providers and/or provide flexible supports themselves. The Ministry of Health is running a procurement process in order to identify providers who wish to support Enabling Good Lives (EGL) Christchurch Demonstration participants by delivering Flexible Disability Supports as an extension of their normal service delivery under Ministry of Health and Ministry of Social Development contracts. Applications are being considered by a panel comprising of Ministry representatives, and Local Advisory Group, disabled people and family representatives. The first round

of applications in October and the second round in November have been considered, with a third round to follow in December. Providers are encouraged to apply for a contract which would then enable them to deliver a range of flexible supports to people.

An extremely successful series of workshops have been hosted by the New Zealand Disability Support Network (NZDSN) aimed at encouraging and adapting the ways in which we work to meet the changing expectations of disabled people and their families.

A reminder that Inclusive NZ, in conjunction with EGL, are providing opportunities to assist providers to use the organisational self-review process as a way of aligning their services with the principles of Enabling Good Lives. This also assists providers in their applications for Flexible Disability Support contracts. Contact Inclusive NZ or the EGL team for further information.

EGL have contracted Ron Trelease who has wide experience in working within the disability sector both in New Zealand and internationally, to assist with brokering great outcomes between EGL participants, agents, providers, schools, NASC, host agency etc., particularly where a new approach

is being trialled. Please see Page 4 for one example of a new approach, where a participant, support worker and Navigator explored Choice in Community Living alternatives in



Hamilton. Ron's role will be to work with each party to design practical systems, processes and agreements as applicable. Please contact me if you wish to engage with Ron between now and the end of the year.

The final Provider Lunchbox session for 2015 was held on Tuesday 24th November with 2016 sessions recommencing on Tuesday 26th January 2016.

Season's Greetings!

EGL PROVIDER LUNCHBOX SESSIONS

This is a chance to get together, network, collaborate and chat to the EGL team about the Christchurch demonstration. You set the discussion topics. Email richard@eglives.co.nz your questions before each session – a few days in advance if possible.

EGL Lunchbox Sessions are between 12-1pm on the last Tuesday of the month in the Avon Room, Level 4 of the Ministry of Social Development, 7 Winston Ave, Papanui. Recommencing in January 2016

Families and Community Development

Annette Van Dongen and Hannah Perry

Co-Managers Families and Community Development

Kia ora, Talofa Lava, Malo e lelei, Kia orana, Bula vinaka, Fakalofa lahi atu, Greetings!

It has a busy few months for Hannah and Annette (or 'Hannette' as we are becoming known!). The highlights of our work, continues to be the navigation we do out in the community with young people and their families. We have the privilege of connecting with people who get jobs, go flatting, develop skills, make new friends and do things that they enjoy with the people they enjoy.

Our time in the office is spent ensuring that the principles of Enabling Good Lives are embedded throughout the Demonstration, in action as well as word. For example, trying to increase individual and family choice and control over who their Navigator is and how they work together. Ensuring that supports build on and develop relationships means we are keen to continue to connect families together to support and learn from each other's skills and experiences. This connection can be done via Family Capacity Building sessions (contact Hannah@egllives.co.nz for more information) as well as individual connections between families who are having similar conversations with their Navigators.

Annette has been involved in the recent Child and Youth Forums which have focussed on identifying and responding to vulnerability in children and young people. The Children's Action Plan and Children's Teams are introducing a fundamentally different way of working for the agencies and organisations committed to early identification and preventative action with vulnerable children and their families. We hope to be able to work together on some of the issues that come up for both us – it helps that we now share an office with the Christchurch Children's Team!

As the Demonstration enters its final months we continue to gather evidence about the impact of an Enabling Good Lives approach on individuals, families and communities. We have had our second internal evaluation and await the learning from this. We are also collecting information from individuals as they begin their Enabling Good Lives journey, and hope to compare this baseline to where things are at for people a few months later. Finally you will read on Page 6 about the second Feedback Loop; what families value and why, and how things could work better for them. We appreciate the time and energy given so generously by so many families and acknowledge your contribution to wider system change across New Zealand.



“If it doesn't make you happy... why bother?”

As the Christchurch Enabling Good Lives Demonstration continues to assist in the exploration of more flexible and creative support options, many disabled people are expressing the wish for more choice and control about where they live and with whom. Choice in Community Living (CiCL) is an approach that is being trialled in Auckland and Waikato that provides the opportunity for disabled people to move out of a residential facility or their family home and into their own home. It gives people and their family/whānau choice and control over how to live, where to live and who to live with.

Choice in Community Living offers an alternative to residential services and enables a disabled person to use the money that would have been used to pay for their residential services in more flexible ways. For instance, participants can have control over their tenancy whether it is in the private sector, the public sector or with a disability service provider. Participants can also have more choice and control over what disability supports are provided and by whom.

Liam Crofts, an EGL participant,

Owen Clouston, a Support Worker at Independence House and Bruce Coleman, an EGL Navigator recently travelled to Hamilton to meet with a range of people who are part of CiCL to see what an impact the approach has for disabled people and those who support them as well as seeing if such an approach would be useful to introduce for EGL participants in Christchurch.

The first people the group met were a young disabled married couple who have a young baby. They shared how they had used their support funding to rent a flat through Accessibility Properties and to pay for support staff Monday to Friday to help them raise their child. They thought that CiCL funding enabled them to have greater control around when support was provided.

The group then met a young man who had moved into town from the country. This was his first flatting experience and despite a number of obstacles he was really happy to have made it work with the supports put in place with his funding. When asked what had helped him persevere, he stated that you just need to “keep on

keeping on”. When asked whether it had improved his life he said, “If it doesn't make you happy, why bother”.

The group also spent time with a man living by himself in a single bedroom flat and a lady who lived in her own home. They both expressed how the CiCL funding had allowed a greater degree of flexibility in terms of where they lived and which agencies provided their support.

A common theme was the need for the right support people and the ability to live the life they wanted to. They all felt that this had been possible with CiCL funding and they felt much more in control of their lives.

While in Hamilton, the group also talked to a number of staff members from IDEA Services and CCS Disability Action Waikato: two of the providers involved in the trial. The group were impressed by how well the programme and its implications had been thought through, the resources that support the programme, and the enthusiasm everyone involved in the programme has for it to continue.

Next Steps with Laura Skerten

written by EGL Navigator and Skerten Family

Laura Skerten is a young woman who is motivated and determined to live her good life. After struggling to have the confidence to pursue her goals, Laura is now going after what she wants in life. Laura has recently started a Next Step Women's Course at CPIT, which she applied for on her own accord. She absolutely loves the course, being a student at CPIT and getting to know other students. She is enjoying it so much that she is already talking about doing further courses. As well as this, Laura has started going to the gym, swimming and joined ParaFed Canterbury to try out some of the sports that they offer.

Some of Laura's goals include getting her driver's licence, having paid work and moving out of home at some stage. She would also like to go travelling.

Since starting her course at CPIT, Laura appears to have more confidence, is happier and is excited about her future.



Big Joe Green: Rap Star



Big Joe Green is the stage name for budding Rap star Joe Ward, and incidentally it is tattooed on his arm just in case he or anyone else forgets. Joe has been interested in Rap music since he was 11 years old. Somehow the format just appealed as a way to express his feeling and thoughts about anything and everything. The lack of traditional constraints like verses, rhymes and tunes also makes it easier to say exactly what you want in whatever language suits:

“Sometimes I feel low and I rap about it and that brings me up again”

Joe has had some notable successes. He has self-produced his first CD (copies available on request) and is writing new songs for a second CD. Joe produces a Rap show for Plains FM broadcast every second Saturday night at 10.30 pm and he recently took part in the Riccarton High School talent quest.

Check out his talent on You Tube:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoF_7DgpljzsebevG7t4mA

“I do it for fun, I enjoy it, it puts a smile on my dial and I love to prove that people in a wheelchair can do anything.”

This year Joe will leave school and is looking at a future in areas like security monitoring and call centre work. Performance opportunities are a bit limited in Christchurch at the moment, so if you know of anyone looking for some very cool entertainment let us know.

Feedback Loop Response

The Second Feedback Loop was conducted by Standards and Monitoring Service (SAMS) to gather feedback from individuals and families about what aspects of Enabling Good Lives (EGL) practices have been of most value to them and how. This is to inform the best way forward for the next few months, as well as following the Demonstration.

We'd like to express our sincere thanks to all those who participated in this Feedback Loop.

As a Demonstration, it is necessary for EGL to gather evidence about what we are doing and the impact it has on individuals, families and communities. It makes sense to us that the best way to do this is ask if things are working better, and what changes we could be making. We know that we keep asking families for evidence, so we appreciate your patience with us and telling your story. We'd like to reassure you that we use the findings to change and adapt the way we work on the basis of what you tell us!

Most of the response in the Feedback Loop was around how things are working well for people, which was wonderful to hear. From the findings, what people most value is: having access to an independent facilitator (Navigator) as well as having flexibility around their funding (EGL personal budget).

We are also making the following changes on the basis of what people have told us.

- Financial planning and budgeting systems are too complex and confusing: One of the EGL principles is “simple and easy to use” – so we are constantly trying to simplify this! We are working on creating ‘easy read’ versions of the funding process and purchasing guidelines
- Employment / training and management of staff: We know that people love having choice and control over who supports them, but actually finding and employing people to do this can be logistically tricky and is a significant responsibility. We are working with some employment agencies to make it easier for families to recruit and employ staff; whilst maintaining choice and control, limiting the amount that parents have to do.
- Navigators and navigation: We have put into practice some of the suggestions made regarding navigation including using successful EGL families as Navigators, which in turn means that families have more choice about who their Navigator is. We also encourage families to attend the range of workshops that we run and advertise; which mean that navigation can occur in a group setting, as well as regular opportunities to connect with other like-minded families.
- Developing community and natural supports: Developing a community that is welcoming and valuing of all people continues to be a challenge. Through Te Pou we are able to offer workshops to families around inclusion in the community as well as effecting social change. If you'd like to be a part of these, please contact Hannah@eglives.co.nz
- Options about independent living: Many of the young people we meet, like others their own age, want to move out of home. They are keen to find out what the possibilities are and who else might be able to help. We ask families to meet together to talk about ‘a home of my own’; and meet others who are making similar plans. If you're interested in being involved, please contact Hannah@eglives.co.nz

If you would like to receive a copy of the Feedback Loop 2 report, please contact Monique@eglives.co.nz. If you have other suggestions on things we could do differently or better, please do not hesitate to get in touch. This is a Demonstration, after all, so we plan on demonstrating different ways of doing things!

Meet Mr Sowerberry a.k.a. Sam Teesdale

Sam was recently a very proud artiste in van Asch Deaf Education Centre's production of Oliver Twist. Sam played the part of Mr Sowerberry, who in the play buys Oliver and takes him on as an apprentice. The play was performed entirely in New Zealand Sign Language with voiced interpretation. Sam says it was hard, but rewarding to learn his lines and perform them in NZSL. Since then his NZ Sign has continued to improve.

Copies of a DVD of the performance are available from library@vanasch.school.nz and are highly recommended.

This year Sam is attending the van Asch transition programme which he says has been exceptionally good. Highlights have been many but some include:

- A four day camp at Boyle River for van Asch and Hillmorton High School students. Sam particularly found the tramping and camping both challenging and rewarding. He reckons he probably walked more in those few days than he has for a long time. Also memorable were the camp cooking and the outdoor teamwork challenges.
- Work experience at the Party Warehouse packing shelves, stocktaking, customer service and general retail responsibilities. Sam also passed his Red Shirts Customer Service award.
- Helping to run the on-site café at van Asch Deaf Education Centre
- Getting his provisional drivers licence

Next year Sam plans to take some courses at Hagley Community College in computer studies and tourism and continue to refine his skills in living in both the hearing and Deaf worlds.

Sam would like to thank Russell Prince, his teacher for over 15 years, Julie Bacon his teacher at the transition programme and Becky Yau his NZSL teacher.



Mr Sowerberry from van Asch Deaf Education Centre's production of Oliver Twist



Sam Teesdale at Boyle River camp

NCEA Level 1 Creative writing task:

Then and Now

Written by **Mustafa Al Momani:**

My Home Jordan,

Then: I was born in Amman, Jordan and lived there for 11 years. I lived in a really old house with a curved rock door. I felt safe because my family were all around the neighbourhood. We had no car so we always caught the bus and walked - because my dad wasn't there. It was a very dry area- few flowers, vegetables in winter stored for the next season. I can smell the dry heat. At night time lots of smells from foods like kebabs lots of people around and the ice cream really soft and nice. There was no wind and lots of birds were whistling. It was always blue sky, dry land and beautiful at night time felt relaxed and calm.

Now: when I returned there for a visit then I was shocked that there were a lot of people because they came to Jordan to keep safe from the war. The people were sleeping outside of the motorway in tents and without tents. It was too hot to

sleep outside. It was so noisy lots of traffic and people are everywhere. The people were from all over the world. There a lot of black people from Africa. I smelled the diesel from the traffic because the drivers were hitting the gas too hard. The cars were revving at traffic lights, motorways and everywhere. I felt hot, I can see the heat going up from the ground. So many people and lots of activity. I was so shocked too many people and everything turned expensive now. It was the same blue sky but I hardly can hear the birds whistling.

When I went back to New Zealand then I felt that it is different from Jordan. New Zealand is my home and I am living here. Here we have green grass everywhere plus plenty of forests. I am happy that it was safe for my Jordan family, but sad for them because they live there not in New Zealand.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

with the Health and Disability Commissioner

Join the Health and Disability Commissioner's office for a consumer seminar in Christchurch - and hear about your rights under the Code of Health and Disability Services Consumers' Rights. We will focus on the rights of disabled people.

- What are your rights?
- What do they mean for you?
- Who can you talk to if you are unhappy with a health and disability service?
- Focus on the rights of disabled people.
- All venues are accessible.
- Tea and coffee will be provided.

DATE Friday 11 March 2016
TIME 1.30pm – 3.30pm
VENUE Sydenham Room, South Library, 66
Colombo St, Christchurch

Please RSVP and let us know if you have any accessibility needs by **1 March 2016** (NZSL interpreters available on request). Email seminar@hdc.org.nz or call 0800 11 22 33 and ask for Esther Woodbury.



Health and Disability Commissioner
Te Toihau Hauora, Hauātanga

Upcoming events

Through the support of Family Capacity Building, we will be holding another Support Workers' event in February 2016. Keep a lookout for further information.

P.A.T.H.

An introduction to a powerful tool to help create a vision and the next steps in making that vision possible.

Christchurch: Saturday 13 February 9.00 AM – 12.00 PM

North Canterbury: Saturday 20 February 1.00 PM – 4.00 PM

Venues to be confirmed

For more information or to register contact:

Dr Beverley Flitton

021 0221 3178

contact@anderley.net

Keep in touch

Join us on Facebook

Enabling Good Lives has a private Facebook group for participants and families who are involved in the Christchurch demonstration.

To join, email monique@eglives.co.nz.

Subscribe to our newsletter

If you would like to be on our newsletter mailing list, please email monique@eglives.co.nz to be added.

Provider updates

Provider updates are available to those involved in the Christchurch demonstration. If you would like to receive monthly lunch box updates, please email richard@eglives.co.nz

Our website

Our website is now live and being populated with all things EGL. You can find this at www.enablinggoodlives.co.nz. You can also find information at www.odi.govt.nz/eglives.

Contact us

Gordon Boxall

Director

e gordon@eglives.co.nz

p 021 587 772

Richard Buchanan

Manager of Provider Relationships and Personalised Funding

e richard@eglives.co.nz

p 027 280 8925

Annette van Dongen

Co-Manager of Families and Community Development

e annette@eglives.co.nz

p 029 201 4841

Hannah Perry

Co-Manager of Families and Community Development

e hannah@eglives.co.nz

p 021 668 949

April Lander

Programme Manager

e april.lander005@msd.govt.nz

Monique Harding

Demonstration Coordinator

e monique@eglives.co.nz

p 027 699 9487