

Enabling Good Lives

Christchurch Newsletter

Enabling Good Lives

Welcome to the New Year and our first 2014 Christchurch newsletter.



I am looking forward to an exciting 2014 and to increasing the number of people we are working with.

We now have 10 navigators on the Enabling Good Lives team and I am delighted with the calibre of people who have come into this role. You can read more about them later in this newsletter.

Our team is now working with 47 disabled people and their families. Some of the first young people are starting to access their personalised budgets and I am sure we will learn a lot as we support them to move to this new way of funding. On page 2 you will find an article about how Enabling Good Lives funding works. I hope you find it useful.

We are also looking forward to working with evaluators who will be interviewing early participants, local agencies and the EGL team. Regular evaluation is an essential part of the demonstration to ensure that we are learning and improving as we go.

We are now looking at our second phase of work that will start in July and needs to be agreed by a Ministerial Committee in April. Along with this year's group of school leavers, we have scope to consider other groups of disabled people who may benefit from the Enabling Good Lives approach. We will be canvassing local groups for their ideas and would welcome individual feedback as well. If you would like to discuss this, please email me at gordon@eglives.co.nz

Finally, we are still trying to locate about six 2013 school leavers to tell them about EGL. If you think you are eligible to be part of EGL and haven't been contacted, please get in touch. Contact details are at the end of this newsletter.

Our next newsletter will be sent out in two months and I look forward to updating you on the demonstration then.

Gordon Boxall
Director, Christchurch Enabling Good Lives Demonstration

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Accessing Enabling Good Lives funding

It's exciting to have the Enabling Good Lives (EGL) funding pathway in place for disabled people who are part of the Christchurch demonstration.

This way of working offers disabled people more control over the money



they have to buy supports and more choice over the supports they receive.

A meeting for disabled people and their families was held on 24 December to explain how to access funding using the EGL funding pathway. If you have any questions about your funding allocation, please contact your navigator in the first instance.

A follow up workshop will be held on Saturday 15 March that will enable families to share experiences and raise any questions. Further details of this workshop are in the latest news section of this newsletter.

Information about the funding pathway has also been distributed to providers and schools. We will be arranging another opportunity for providers and schools to meet soon. Details will be provided in a future update. In the meantime if providers or schools have any questions, please contact me at richard@eglives.co.nz.

The funding pathway is outlined below, from determining how much funding is available through to purchasing supports and services.

Richard Buchanan
Manager of Provider Relationships and Personalised Funding

Introduction to Enabling Good Lives funding

Under Enabling Good Lives (EGL), a disabled person is allocated a personal budget that is made up of contributions from the Ministries of Health, Education and Social Development, depending on their eligibility.

An allocation system will be designed as part of the EGL demonstration that will match resources with a person's plan for a good life.

The disabled person has control over how they use their personal budget to help them achieve their goals and aspirations as part of having a good everyday life. They also have choice

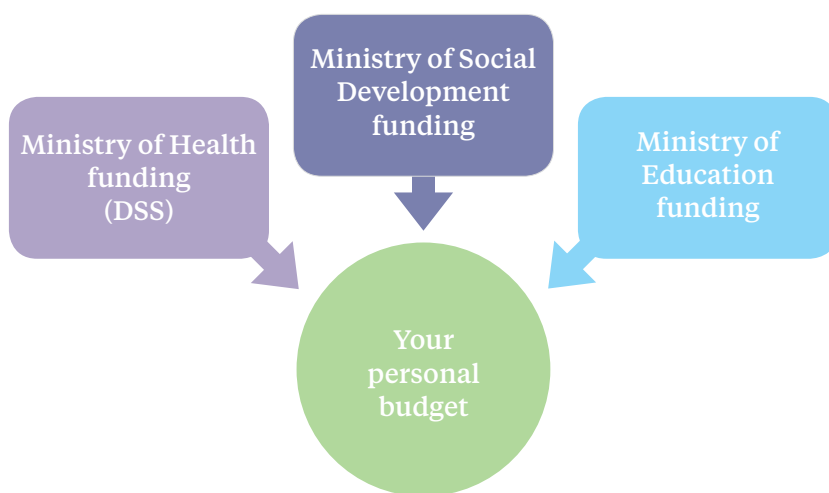
over who supports them and when they receive support.

Dream big: Create a plan that includes your aspirations, dreams and goals for leading a good life with the help of your whānau, friends and navigator.

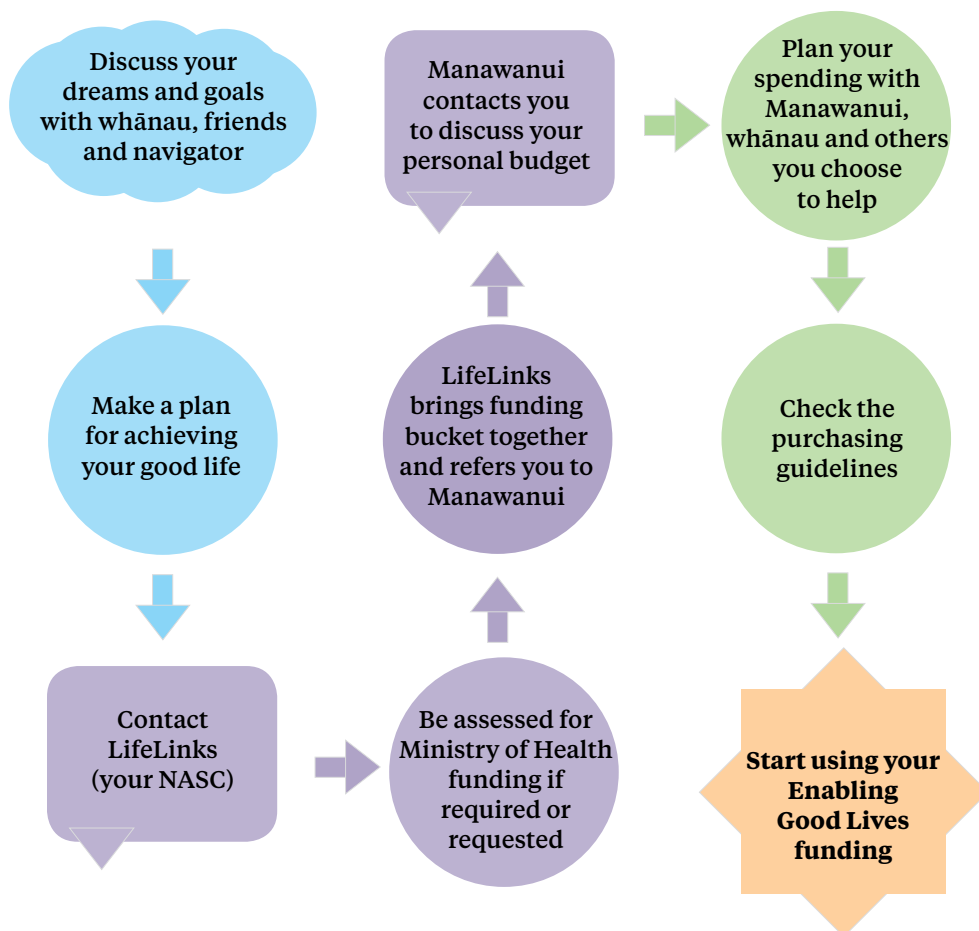
Contact LifeLinks: Once you have a plan for the things you'd like to achieve, you or your navigator will need to contact LifeLinks (your Needs Assessment and Service Coordination agency) and tell

them that you have joined EGL and would like to organise your funding 'bucket'.

Assessment if needed: LifeLinks will reassess your needs if this hasn't been done recently or if your needs or circumstances have changed. This assessment is to determine your Ministry of Health disability support funding for things like personal care, household management, respite and carer support. This is then converted into a dollar value.



Funding pathway



Pooled funding bucket: Lifelinks contacts the Ministries of Education and Social Development to bring all of your Ongoing Resourcing Scheme (ORS) funding (if you have it) together with your Ministry of Health funding in one 'bucket'. This is your personal budget.

Manawanui will contact you:

Lifelinks will refer you to Manawanui who is the EGL host service provider – they host your funding. They will meet you to discuss your personal budget and develop an agreement with you that will identify the types of supports that will be purchased. This will include how much you have to spend, how long you have to spend it and what you can use it for. They will also talk about how you would like to manage your money.

Plan your spending: Manawanui will work with you, your whānau, and others that you want to support you, to plan how to use your personal budget to achieve your goals and dreams. This may include options such as:

- employing and paying your own staff
- employing your own staff but asking Manawanui to provide a payroll service for you
- using a provider for some of your support and employing your own staff for the rest of the time. Manawanui organises the payments
- paying a provider to meet your needs. Manawanui transfers your funding to them.

At this stage, funding is allocated for one year at a time but it is hoped that through EGL, funding may be allocated for longer periods and

that some funding may be able to be rolled over from year to year so that you can budget for a significant support purchase.

Check the purchasing guidelines:

The use of funding under EGL is designed to be as flexible as possible to meet people's needs. If you are unsure about what can be purchased, refer to the EGL Purchasing Guidelines.

These are:

- The disabled person is seeking to achieve an outcome that is identified in their plan.
- The person needs disability support (things they wouldn't need if they didn't have a disability) to achieve an outcome in their plan.
- Disability support that meets the first two criteria can be funded, unless there is a specific exclusion.

Josh's confidence grows with Enabling Good Lives

Josh Leathem proudly shows off his Complete Home Care uniform of a t-shirt and cap. He's working three days a week as a gardener and he gives it the big thumbs up.

After finishing at Ferndale School in 2013, Josh and his mum Adrienne were thinking about his next step. They heard about Enabling Good Lives (EGL) and jumped at the chance to work with a navigator to help Josh achieve his dreams.

His strengths lay in his positive attitude and hands-on skills. He'd won the Dux Award at the end-of-year prizegiving and had gained trades skills at Canterbury Tertiary College's carpentry and joinery course.

EGL Navigator Hannah Perry started working alongside Josh and Adrienne to plan for the future. Josh told Hannah and Adrienne that he would like to work outdoors, preferably on a farm. He soon found a gardening job through networking.



At Complete Home Care, Josh is gaining valuable outdoor work experience and will move into paid employment in the coming months after some further training. He's also a volunteer at Trees for Canterbury. Both jobs contribute to his CV and future job possibilities.

Adrienne says that working has given Josh more than just new skills. 'He's proud of keeping his appearance tidy and he has friends from work that he socialises with on a Friday night. He's matured so much and his confidence level has grown so high.'

Josh is also interested in going flatting. To get started, his navigator is working with him to organise a Circle of Support – an intentional network of people who can help support Josh to achieve his goals.

'I'm more relaxed about the future knowing there are people out there

who can help Josh with his dreams and aspirations,' Adrienne says.

Doing new things with new people is another aspect that Josh is working on to prepare for flatting. He will soon have a new communication device to help him with his speech. His navigator has helped him to find a device that meets his needs.

Josh is also practising flatting skills. He cooked a corned beef dinner for his mum because he likes to help her out. He goes down to the shop to get the milk and buys his lunch everyday with his workmates.

Not only is Josh developing more independence as he plans for his good life – Adrienne is feeling positive too.

'I feel like we both get to start living life and I know that can happen now,' Adrienne says.

Meet our new navigators

We are excited to introduce seven of our new navigators. You can meet more of them in the next edition of our newsletter, including our first Māori navigator.

Kerri Bonner

You met Kerri Bonner in our last newsletter. Since then she has successfully applied to become an EGL navigator.



Kerri is passionate about working with young people. She's been a counsellor at Youthline for several years, where she will continue working part-time alongside her work as a navigator.

Kerri graduated from the University of Canterbury with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology in 2012. She knows what it's like to be a young person growing up with a disability and has experienced the challenges of leaving school and thinking about what to do next.

EGL excites Kerri because the approach encourages disabled people to pursue their dreams. Kerri is passionate about supporting and empowering youth to go after what they want in life.

Bruce Coleman

Bruce has been involved in enabling changes for disabled people for many years. He comes to the Enabling Good Lives team from the Human Rights Commission where he worked for 18 years.



The EGL approach is exciting for Bruce because it focuses on the self-determination, independence, strengths and equitable involvement of disabled people.

Bruce is looking forward to working in the community with individuals and their families to help them achieve their goals.

Annette van Dongen

For Annette van Dongen, it was the philosophy and thinking behind EGL that attracted her to the navigator role. She is looking forward to being a navigator and helping people achieve their hopes and dreams.



Annette has a background in occupational therapy. She worked for a number of years in the health and disability sector in both New Zealand and the United Kingdom.

As well as being an EGL navigator, Annette also works with people in the Canterbury District Health Board's mental health services.

Maxine Palmer

Maxine Palmer has lived experience of disability and is excited to be helping people explore their own dreams and possibilities. She is passionate about helping others to do what they want with their lives.



Maxine has worked in the social services and disability sector for many years.

She has been involved in the Waimak Access Group in the Waimakariri for three years. Maxine has also been a committee member of the Muscular Dystrophy Association, Canterbury Branch.

Maxine has a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology and Sociology and Post Graduate Diploma in Sociology. She also has a counselling diploma.

Jackie Hickman

Jackie is passionate about helping young people to reach for their dreams, while having lots of fun along the way.

She has worked in education and health and holds a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Education and a Diploma in Mental Health. Jackie also has a wealth of experience about what is available in the community.

She is looking forward to being a key point of contact for the young people, families and caregivers she will be working with. Jackie is also very excited to be working alongside other inspirational navigators.

Sue van der Byl

Since graduating with a Masters Degree in psychology, Sue has spent 25 years working in the disability sector in a variety of positions in New Zealand, Britain and Australia.



Sue worked as the family whānau coordinator for IHC North Canterbury, working with families to provide home support and respite care. She later became a personal plan facilitator, helping people to

identify their dreams and aspirations and set goals for themselves.

Sue believes that Enabling Good Lives will empower and encourage people to live out their dreams and not be limited by what has traditionally been offered. She is honoured and excited that, as a navigator, she will be part of this process.

Sue Molloy

With a background in education and health, Sue is excited to bring her skills to the Enabling Good Lives team. Sue has



worked as a teacher and a counsellor for many years. She has a Higher Diploma in Education (H. Dip. Tchg) and a Master's of Education (M.Ed.) in Counselling. She also holds a Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) certificate and is a member of the New Zealand Association of Counsellors MNZAC.

Sue believes that EGL is a great next step which follows on from working with students with disabilities in schools. She feels privileged to be a part of helping young people and their families to feel more empowered and positive about the future.

Latest news

Family on funding pathway meeting

A workshop on Enabling Good Lives funding will be held on Saturday 15 March at the Papanui Plunket Rooms, 24 Bellvue Avenue, 10 am to 11.30 am. Families will be able to learn about the funding pathway, share experiences and raise any questions. Ruth Jones and Richard Buchanan will be present. Email ruth@eglives.co.nz to register your attendance.

Local officials group established

The EGL team has set up a fortnightly meeting with staff from Christchurch ministry offices and the local Needs Assessment and Service Coordination agency, LifeLinks. This group will work collaboratively on the implementation of EGL at a local level.

EGL meeting for all

At the provider forum held on 3 December, people indicated that they would like to see a meeting arranged at which providers, schools, officials, EGL participants and families could come together and discuss their progress to date. The EGL team will arrange this event, with further details to be provided in the next newsletter.

Newsletter goes bi-monthly

Our Christchurch newsletter will be issued every two months from now on. We will continue to provide relevant updates to participants, families, providers, schools and officials as the demonstration progresses.

Offices

Now that our team has expanded, we're searching for office space in Christchurch. We'll be in touch via email with our new location as soon as we have one.

Support Parent Training Course hosted by Parent to Parent

3 to 4 May 2014 at Hillmorton High School, Hoon Hay

If you are a parent, step-parent or grandparent of a child with a disability and would like to support other parents on their journey, you could train to be a volunteer Support Parent.

For more information contact gtrcanterbury@parent2parent.org.nz or phone 0508 236 236

Good times at family picnic

The first Enabling Good Lives (EGL) family picnic was held at The Groynes on 25 January. Forty-five people went along for a day of fun and a chance to catch up with the team. Games, including soccer, were played after a barbecue lunch, coffee and some ice-cream. To see more photos, check out the participant and family Facebook group.



Join us on Facebook

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

To join, email hannahm@eglives.co.nz

Further information

Subscribe to our newsletter

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

Our website

Our website will be established soon. In the meantime, please go to www.odi.govt.nz/eglives for further information.

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