

# Enabling Good Lives

Christchurch Newsletter

## Demonstration extends with Phase Two starting July

Welcome to the June edition of the **Enabling Good Lives Christchurch newsletter**.



I'd like to first offer congratulations to our two Queen's Service Medal recipients on behalf of the team - Ruth Jones, Enabling Good Lives (EGL) Manager of Families and Community Development, and Mark Benjamin, CEO of the Standards and Monitoring Service (SAMS) and Member of the EGL National Leadership Group.

It's an exciting time for the Christchurch demonstration as we move into Phase Two on 1 July. This phase will not only see a wider group of disabled people join EGL, but will also be focused on making the system work better for all people and agencies.

The Enabling Good Lives Christchurch team is planning several components for Phase Two, aimed at system transformation.

These include:

### People-focused components

- The future role and function of navigators
- How people access EGL
- The purpose of a personal plan

### Funding-focused components

- How funds are identified, pooled and allocated
- Considering the best way for people to receive and account for personalised budgets
- Ensuring the financial sustainability of EGL

### Community/supports-focused

- Community development
- Provider development
- School development

## Contents

Page 2

**Young participants making progress**

Page 3

**Ricky's rural studies**

**Connecting people with support workers**

Page 4

**Dr Michael Kendrick presents to EGL**

**More disabled people to join EGL Christchurch demonstration from 1 July**

Page 5

**Provider news**

**Latest news**

Page 6

**Navigators try out Hot Hula**

**Keep in touch**

## Over arching elements

- Overall accountability
- System transformation

As Phase Two puts these components into action, we can start to consider how a new system could work in accordance with EGL principles. This system will build from known best practice, incorporating the learning from the New Model work done by the Ministry of Health's Disability Support Services. It will be co-designed with the sector and led by disabled people and families.

We will continue to keep you updated as this exciting phase progresses. More information on the people who can join Phase Two is detailed on page four.

EGL is also spreading to the Waikato where funding has been allocated to start a second demonstration. We look forward to meeting colleagues from the Waikato Leadership Group at the end of June to share our learning and consider how we can best work together.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the time EGL participants and family

members are taking to share their positive experiences with other groups. Two people recently shared their experiences in the Waikato and another participant and his mother went to Wellington to share their story with officials, whose behind-the-scenes work is crucial to ensuring the cross-ministry systems, policies and processes are supporting the EGL approach.

Gordon Boxall

Director, Enabling Good Lives  
Christchurch Demonstration

## Young participants making progress

### Update from Ruth Jones, Manager of Families and Community Development

We now have 10 navigators on board who are really enjoying working with young people and their whānau. More than 55 people are part of the demonstration and 38 of them have their personal budget.

While some Enabling Good Lives participants have been involved since October last year, others have only recently joined. Each person comes with their own unique dreams for the future and it's exciting to see people making progress on their plans.



EGL participants are working towards goals that include:

- Using their EGL personal budgets to make their supports work around them.
- Putting creative respite options in place – for some families, they are now able to plan their first holiday break for a very long time as they know their son/daughter can design a respite situation that suits them.

- Employing support workers they choose – some families are even sharing support workers.
- Employing support workers who can help with a micro-business.
- Planning for flatting in the future.
- Doing everyday things in the community, such as going swimming, visiting interesting places or having lunch with friends.

On the whole, participants and their families are becoming more confident. They are in control and are not afraid to ask for what they want. It's great to see disabled people and whānau helping one another too.

# Ricky's rural studies

**Farming is in Ricky's blood. He grew up going to the stockyards and watching his Dad bring in the cattle.**

Now 19, he's studying for a National Certificate in Agriculture under the Youth Guarantee programme, with the aim of working on a dairy farm.

Ricky started at the National Trades Academy in January. The 12-month course is hands-on and he has so far experienced dairy farming, sheep and beef farming, shearing, mustering, tractor-driving, quad-bike driving, chain-sawing, fencing and working with dogs.

"Tractor driving has been one of my favourite things so far," Ricky says.

His confidence is growing at the course and he is getting good marks. He has extra help with his English and maths and he is determined to improve so that he can carry out the measuring required in the milking shed.

He has also established a great



relationship with his tutor Jason who is very supportive of his career goals.

"If I am ever struggling I let Jason know. He'll take you through things if you don't understand," Ricky says.

The class often head to the stockyards on field-trips. The connections Ricky makes here will be very important when he starts job-hunting. It's also a great place to find out if a farmer needs the help of the whole class to get a big task done, for example putting up a new fence.

"They say giddyay to you and we find out if they need some help. They have a lot of respect for us students," Ricky says.

The class gets on well together and Ricky has made a good group of mates who like to joke around with each other during breaks. He often helps others with their work, including teaching some international students how to ride a motorbike correctly.

Ricky's training is preparing him for the real life experiences of farming and he is excited about entering the workforce.

"I have always wanted to get into dairy. Farming is my passion," Ricky says.

Potential students who need support to study at the National Trades Academy can email [donelle@nta.co.nz](mailto:donelle@nta.co.nz)

## Connecting people with support workers

Saturday 19 July, 11am – 2pm, St Paul's Church Hall, 1 Harewood Road, Papanui, Christchurch

This event is for:

- EGL participants and families who need a support worker
- Support workers who want work
- Meet support workers who may be the right fit for you and your whānau. There will also be discussions about recruitment, training and managing staff.

A light lunch will be provided

RSVP to Navigator Hannah Perry by 15 July: [hannah@eglives.co.nz](mailto:hannah@eglives.co.nz) or 021 668 949

# Dr Michael Kendrick presents to EGL

**Dr Michael Kendrick, internationally renowned educator, advocate, consultant and author, presented to EGL participants and their families on 25 March.**

He spoke about what it is to have good life is and shared positive life stories about disabled people from around the world. During his time in Christchurch, he also presented to navigators and providers.

## **Kendrick presentation inspires Lamont family**

Andrea shares her views on Dr Kendrick's presentation as a parent of EGL participant Tyler.

I am lucky enough to have attended four presentations by Michael Kendrick since the late 1980s.

He inspired me way back then and I kept wishing the stories he told could happen for Tyler (my son) and me.

Fifteen years later and this has now become a reality with EGL. I am thrilled and excited to be on this journey to help Tyler have a good life.

Many of Michael's words have stuck in my mind, including: "Life comes as a whole not a series of parts" - meaning "focus on the person first - not the disability." Other words from Michael

that inspire me are: "Echo to the world and go out in the world."

At his recent presentation we learnt that we have to challenge our thinking and words. We can make impossible situations change by having positive attitudes.

What inspired me was that he used the word "natural". The example given was: "It is natural for our children to want a good life and that they live in a world that is natural to them."

Dr Kendrick has given us ideas of how to overcome obstacles in relation to what Tyler and I are working on as part of Tyler's EGL plan. Many things will get in our way but we keep going. He also told us to seek others that are like minded.

Tyler says that Dr Kendrick had



interesting concepts: "Everything that is too hard you have to make it easier for yourself. It made me think about what I want in life in a positive way."

## **More disabled people to join EGL Christchurch demonstration from 1 July**

Led by the Enabling Good Lives Local Advisory Group, the Christchurch demonstration will be expanded to include 150 more people in Phase Two from 1 July this year.

The following people will be able to join Phase Two of EGL:

- continuing from Phase One, 18-21 year olds who are leaving school in Christchurch in 2014 and who have High or Very High Ongoing

Resourcing Scheme (ORS) funding

- school leavers aged 18-21 from Ashburton and Darfield with ORS funding
- 13-18 year olds in Christchurch who have ORS funding. This group will be offered the services of an EGL Navigator but their ORS funding will stay with the school until they choose to leave
- recent school leavers, in Christchurch, who previously received ORS funding
- a defined number (to be advised) of Christchurch school leavers

with significant needs but who are not receiving ORS funding

- young people who are in contact with multiple agencies but for whom traditional approaches are not working
- disabled people under the age of 40 who want to move out of residential facilities or avoid moving in
- people under 65 who live in aged-care and want to reside elsewhere
- disabled parents

The EGL team is planning how to best engage with people who are interested in joining EGL.

## Provider news

### Richard Buchanan, Manager of Provider Relationships and Personalised Funding

Reflecting on the last six months, it has been exciting to see many new initiatives emerging from providers who are keen to embrace the Enabling Good Lives approach. I would like to acknowledge the efforts that are being made to work in a different way.

'Being of service' has quickly come to the fore, with EGL participants approaching providers and talking to them about the type of support that would enable them to have a good life. Providers in turn are offering a greater number of individualised supports and programmes that meet participants' expectations and assist in the achievement of their lifetime goals.

In April we introduced provider Lunchbox Sessions, as requested by providers. These sessions are a chance for people to get-together, collaborate and chat to the EGL team about the Christchurch demonstration. Providers set the discussion topics.

If you're a Christchurch provider and you haven't received my April update, please email me to be put on the list.

Contact: [richard@eglives.co.nz](mailto:richard@eglives.co.nz)



## Latest news

### Aspire Canterbury presentation

Richard Buchanan presented at the Aspire Canterbury Network meeting on 9 April. The meeting was themed 'workability' and Richard gave an overview of Enabling Good Lives to those present.

He said that EGL was about transforming the system.

"Navigators look at a whole of life plan with the disabled person, rather than just what they do during the day for the next year," he said.

He asked providers to be of service rather than just being a service.

"People will come to you with their EGL personal budgets and ask for what they want and see if you can provide it. Participants can use their budgets to do things differently," he said.

### Family meeting about EGL funding

A second meeting about EGL funding was held on 15 March. The EGL team explained the funding pathway and answered questions. Participants and families talked about how they might use their personal budgets in new ways.

### Service Agreement template introduced

On 25 March, Enabling Good Lives introduced a Service Agreement template that EGL participants and providers can use when organising services and supports.

Using the template

- Once you have your EGL personal budget, you may choose to purchase some or all of your supports from a provider.

- This template is a starting point for discussions about how your chosen services and/or supports will be delivered.
- The template includes the amount of time for which the service or support will be purchased. We recommend that you make an initial agreement for three months. This way you can decide if the service or support is right for you and then make changes if you wish.
- You can change this template as much as you like to suit your individual needs.
- Providers may have their own Service Agreement templates and are welcome to use them too.
- Email your navigator to get a copy of this template.

# Navigators try out Hot Hula

A team meeting for EGL navigators on 17 April took a different turn.

Ruth Jones organised a surprise activity to get into the spirit for the Easter break – a Hot Hula fitness class.

Thanks to Tony McLean from Imagine Better for facilitating the meeting and to Vaea Hutchen from the Mental Health Foundation for her Hot Hula expertise.



## 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 [hannahm@eglives.co.nz](mailto:hannahm@eglives.co.nz).

### Subscribe to our newsletter

If you would like to be on our newsletter mailing list, please email [hannahm@eglives.co.nz](mailto:hannahm@eglives.co.nz) to be added.

### Provider updates

Provider updates are available to those involved in the Christchurch demonstration. The first was sent out in January this year and an April edition has recently been released. If you would like to receive this, please email [richard@eglives.co.nz](mailto:richard@eglives.co.nz)

### Our website

Our website will be established soon. In the meantime please go to [www.odi.govt.nz/eglives](http://www.odi.govt.nz/eglives) for further information.

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