Summary: Preliminary Quality of Life Outcomes for Enabling Good Lives Waikato

At the request of the EGL Joint Agency Group an additional piece of work for the phase two evaluation of the Waikato Demonstration was undertaken looking at quality of life (QOL) outcomes for those participants interviewed for the evaluation. The key objective of analysing the interview data is to understand what outcomes were being achieved by those participating in Enabling Good Lives (EGL) and what contribution EGL has made to those outcomes. The EGL approach is ultimately about improving the quality of life of people with disabilities

Thirty EGL participants were interviewed as part of the EGL Waikato evaluation (phase 2). The interview data was analysed using Professor Schalock’s QOL framework. The questions asked of participants were not focused explicitly on the eight dimensions[[1]](#footnote-1) of quality of life, as expressed through Shalock’s framework. There was no baseline study. Moreover there is limited information about the differences between responding and non-responding disabled people. As a result the conclusions drawn should be treated with caution.

Analysis of the data collected revealed there were improvements across aspects of all the quality of life dimensions. Only three people reported minimal or no change across dimensions.

Interviewees attributed improvements in the various dimensions of quality of life to having the ability to use their funding allocation more flexibly to meet their needs (e.g. choosing and hiring their own support staff).

Many families reported improvements in wellbeing and the quality of their relationships which were often related to the improvement of supports to disabled people, and more support for the family.

1. These dimensions are Self-Determination, Personal Development, Interpersonal Relations, Social Inclusion, Rights, Emotional Well-Being, Physical Well-Being, Material Well-Being [↑](#footnote-ref-1)