

NEGL and The New Zealand Disability Strategy 2026-2030

The refreshed New Zealand Disability Strategy was released. The Crown's strategy is intended to provide direction to/for government agencies.

It is important to note the 2026-2030 NZ Disability Strategy states:

"This strategy is built on important foundations

Enabling Good Lives

Enabling Good Lives (EGL) has its origin as a social movement, and is part of the whakapapa of this strategy. It is a vision and set of principles developed by the disability community as a foundation for positive change. The EGL principles are a touchstone for the future, helping to guide the design and implementation of services and supports for disabled people. The principles are:

- Self-determination
- Beginning early
- Person-centred
- Ordinary life outcomes
- Mainstream first
- Mana enhancing
- Easy to use
- Relationship building"¹

Definitions

Foundation

"a basis (such as a tenet, principle, or axiom) upon which something stands or is supported"²

"a principle, an idea or a fact that something is based on and that it grows from"³

¹ New Zealand Disability Strategy, 2026-2030

² www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/foundation

³ www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/foundation

Touchstone

“an established standard or principle by which something is judged”⁴

“**touchstone (of/for something)** something that provides a standard against which other things are compared and/or judged”⁵

“A **touchstone** is a **criterion or standard by which something is judged**; it functions as a benchmark or yardstick for assessing quality or genuineness”⁶

Guide

“A **guide** is something that can be used to help you plan your actions or to form an opinion about something”⁷

“Something that serves to direct or indicate.”⁸

What this means for EGL

EGL as a foundation, touchstone and guide means the Enabling Good Lives approach provides the *core principles, vision and practical framework* that the NZ disability strategy must consider, test itself against, and use to shape policy, services and practice.

As a foundation:

- it supplies the values and structure on which services and systems can be redesigned;
- as a *touchstone* it becomes the standard against which policies and decisions are judged; and
- as a *guide* it points to concrete ways to change how supports are planned, funded and governed

⁴ [TOUCHSTONE | English meaning - Cambridge Dictionary](#)

⁵ www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/touchstone

⁶ Merriam Webster

⁷ www.collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/english/guide

⁸ www.thefreedictionary.com/guide