

Enabling Good Lives

Christchurch

Director's Report

Gordon Boxall

Director Enabling Good Lives



Welcome to the latest Enabling Good Lives Christchurch Newsletter and thank you to all our contributors, particularly EGL participants who have so freely shared their personal experiences.

Welcome also to Craig Bellis and Emma Jenkins who have recently joined our Local Advisory Group and to Marg Matheson at People First for your support in this process. We are already benefiting from their valuable input.

Enabling Good Lives has a website! Like all new websites, it needs on-going maintenance so we will endeavour to get the Christchurch pages up to date over the next few weeks. In the meantime, look us up on www.enablinggoodlives.co.nz and let us know what you think.

I am delighted that we can finally work with some of the people we were unable to work with last year when we had limited capacity. We are able to accommodate 30 participants as opt-ins from this group, in addition to this year's school leavers.

We continue to work hard to put new things in place which will help to create a complete EGL way of working. Fundamental to this is a new way of allocating funding that is directly linked to what people determine they want to do and need in order to get their good life. The aim is to be able to focus on people's strengths rather than deficits. A Funding Allocation Tool is being co-designed with local disabled persons and families. I hope to be able to report on the details in the next edition – we aim to be in a position to introduce it from July 2015.

Building relationships and understanding with schools and support providers is an on-going priority so we can complement the great work that is happening on the ground and ensure we all understand the benefits that working together can offer to EGL participants and families.

We are also making progress to extend how funds are managed to include the option for support providers to act as hosts. This is in response to people wanting more choice and control but without all the responsibilities of employing and deploying staff directly. July is the target date for this option as well.

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Navigators & Supported Employers

We have a Purchasing Guidelines Review Panel up and running now. This is to consider requests for funding that do not easily fit into the guidelines set up under EGL. The panel is balanced between disabled persons/families and government agencies and will meet as and when required.

Finally, thank you to participants and families who were involved in the design of the Health and Disability Commission's new guides about what to do when things go wrong and how to avoid such situations occurring. These will be available very soon and we will make sure they are made available to all EGL participants.

Enabling Good Lives and Provider Connections

Richard Buchanan, Manager of Provider Relationships and Personalised Funding

I'd like to begin by recognising the continued involvement by providers in assisting the Enabling Good Lives (EGL) team implement the many components of the demonstration here in Christchurch. Despite the challenges that a demonstration like this presents, there are also a number of opportunities that are being presented. I look forward to the continued collaboration.

In the time since our last newsletter, we have been working on a payment mechanism that will enable EGL participants who choose to purchase support from day service providers, to pay for this easily. In order to make this happen, EGL participants, or their representatives, will need to sign an agreement with the Provider and Manawanui (the Funding Host) which allows the Provider to invoice Manawanui on the EGL participant's



behalf. It is imperative that the EGL participant (or their representative) agrees with the Provider what services/supports will be provided and how much this will cost. This agreement will apply to the MSD portion of EGL participant's personal budget where they choose to use it all to purchase support from a provider. The benefits of entering into this agreement include the GST portion of invoice payments not coming from EGL participant's personal budgets and timely payments for Providers.

A reminder that the monthly Provider Lunchbox sessions are continuing and are held in the Ministry of Social Development offices at 7 Winston Ave, Papanui on the last Tuesday of every month between 12-1pm – see further details below.

EGL team members met with representatives of the two provider peak bodies (NZDSN and Inclusive NZ) and SAMS in March. This was a very productive meeting aimed at strategizing as to how providers could be assisted to embrace a changing landscape within the disability sector and respond to the expectations of disabled people and their families. An outcome from the meeting was a decision to host an event in Christchurch on Tuesday 26th May titled "The Provider Role in a New Landscape". Please note this in your diaries and further details will be out soon. There will be no Provider Lunchbox session that day.

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 every month in the Avon Room, Level 4 of the Ministry of Social Development, 7 Winston Ave, Papanui.

Families And Community Development

Navigators, Annette van Dongen and Hannah Perry were honoured to be appointed to jointly fill the position of Manager for Family/Whānau and Community Development.

With complementary skills and experiences, and a shared commitment to the principles of Enabling Good Lives, Annette and Hannah have divided their role so that each is working to their skills and preferences.

Broadly speaking, Annette is responsible for the Navigation team, engaging with Schools as well as connecting with other stakeholders such as LifeLinks, Manawanui in Charge, and the Ministries of Health and Education.

Hannah is the first point of contact for families and EGL participants, and supports people to choose and connect with the Navigators. Hannah is also responsible for the 'Family Capacity Building' project - read more on that on Page 7 in this newsletter.

HOURS AND CONTACT DETAILS:

Annette

029 201 4841 | 03 961 4305

email annette@eglives.co.nz

Hannah

021 668 949 | 03 354 5515

email hannah@eglives.co.nz

Annette works Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

Hannah works Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

Making Community Life Happen – Workshop Presented By John Armstrong

This is an opportunity for disabled persons and families to meet together and discuss:

- What increases the chances that people will be embraced, sought after, and even missed?
- How do communities work in ways that are quite different from how services operate?
- What roles might staff play in facilitating involvement in the community?
- How do you find the right staff with the right stuff?
- Is it possible to predict and avoid what could go wrong and do you have what is needed if things go well?
- How do you find committed people to carry on after you have gone?



The day will have time for talking, thinking and sharing and aims to strengthen a network of people ready to share, problem solve and support each other through the efforts and learning each makes on this journey.

When: Friday 8 May 2015 – 9:30 am until 2:30 pm

Where: Fern Room, Atrium in the Park, 455 Hagley Ave, Christchurch Central

RSVP: By Monday 4 May to Monique, Demonstration Coordinator at monique@eglives.co.nz or 961 4307

Navigating the principles of Enabling Good Lives - Hannah Perry

The primary role of a Navigator is to assist individuals and their family to determine what a good life might look like for them and who might be able to help them achieve this. If we look at some of the principles of Enabling Good Lives (EGL) we see how Navigators can make it easier for individuals and their families to live good lives. A full list and details of the EGL principles can be found at

www.enablinggoodlives.co.nz/about-egl/egl-approach/principles/

Beginning Early:

Investing early in disabled people and their families to support them to be aspirational and building community and natural supports, are particularly important components of enabling people to lead good lives. Ideally, transition from High School would start in Year 9. EGL Navigators work with students and their school during their last year to assist them with a successful transition from school. Many families take advantage of the Family Capacity Building groups which enables Navigators to connect with people earlier in many cases. It is heartening to meet parents in this group who are asking “where to next”, years before their young people are due to leave school. For more information about Family Capacity Building please see Page 6.

Ordinary life outcomes:

Navigators will encourage and assist disabled people and their families to live an everyday life in everyday places of their choice. It is important that they have the same opportunities as anyone else to be able to learn, be employed, have a home and family, and real connections with their communities. Navigators will also encourage disabled people and their families to dream and have expectations of what is possible rather than what is not.

Mana enhancing:

A Navigator will encourage you to use support in a manner that enhances your abilities and contributions. This may include thinking about how you could use certain technology, employing your own support staff, or doing things in a creative way that bring out your talents and skills, and offers opportunities to connect with others. See Tamara’s story on Page 5 for an example of this.

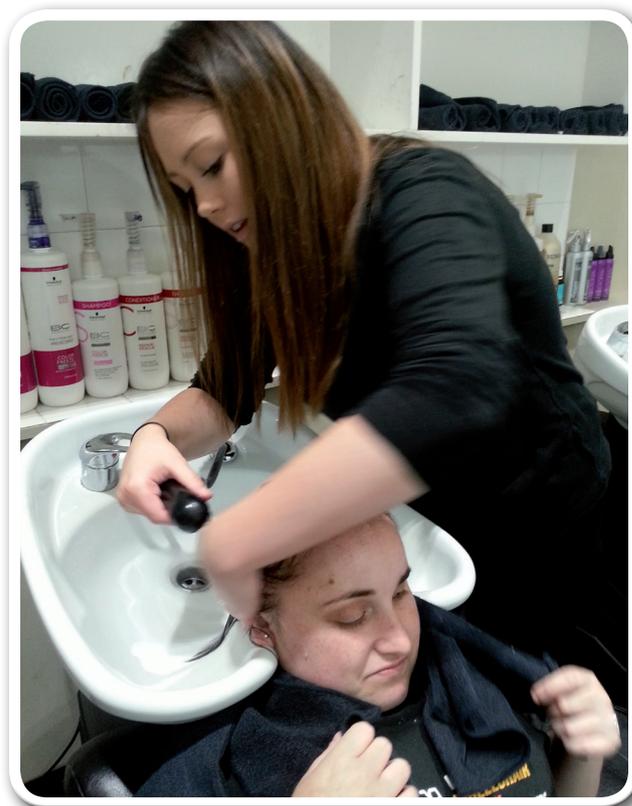
Easy to use:

Many aspects of the ‘system’ are often difficult to negotiate and seem so complex that it leaves people confused and unable to access the support they need. Navigators are able to assist disabled people and their families find a way through the system to ensure they benefit from all resources within the community including various disability supports. At the same time, the EGL team continues to contribute to changes within the system that will ultimately make things easier to use and more responsive to disabled people and their families.

Tamara's Here

You can't wash your own hair if you can't put your arms above your head.

Tamara has come up with a great solution ... Instead of paying a carer (or asking mum) to come and help her in the shower, Tamara goes to a hair salon to get her hair washed, and pays for this out of her EGL personal budget. Tamara picked Synergy Hair salon because she found the ladies were really nice there. When she wants her hair cut or coloured, she will pay for it like everybody else, but having a regular shampoo and condition means that Tamara's independence and dignity is maintained. Who knows, with Tamara's BUBBLY personality she might strike up a friendship with Courtney who is doing her hair here!!



Working With Schools

Linda Leishman, Ferndale School

It is good to see EGL Navigators connecting with families much earlier this year than previously. Ferndale School has five students turning 21 this year and leaving school and three students who have opted to leave school earlier and make the use of their ORS funding to access other opportunities. It is great to see young people and their families having the option to leave school before they turn 21 and start their 'good life' post-school.

We held a meeting at Ferndale School in late 2014 for families of our 18-21 year old students to give them an overview of Enabling Good Lives and how it would assist in transition from school. Families of 2015 school leaver's attended an EGL Families' Information evening in February and took the opportunity to begin connections with a Navigator and the EGL approach. Families of other students who were unable to attend have subsequently been supported to connect with EGL by school staff and direct contact with EGL representatives.

To date, Navigators have had conversations and connected with six students and their families. We welcome the extra support students will receive from being part of the EGL demonstration in creating a vision for life post-school and setting goals for the final year of school. Going forward, we would like to see families being able to connect with Navigators even earlier in their career planning process, following the EGL principle of 'beginning early'.

EGL FOR STUDENTS WHO ARE LEAVING SCHOOL IN 2015

This year we are pleased to be continuing to work with disabled school leavers who are in receipt of High or Very High Needs ORS funding. EGL Navigators and the team assist EGL participants in planning for their future, building relationships in their local community and pooling funds from across the Ministries of Education, Health and Social Development in order to create a personalised budget with which they can use to resource a good life.

All Christchurch students with ORS funding who are leaving school in 2015 will be contacted, initially via schools to advise them of the EGL demonstration. An EGL approach provides the opportunity for the disabled school leaver and their family to have the support of an EGL Navigator, who they choose, to help them plan for their good life.

EGL FOR THOSE WHO ARE 'OPTING IN'

The EGL Director has delegated authority to offer an EGL approach to up to 30 people who are interested in seeing if this would be beneficial to them. The first people to be offered a chance to join EGL will be from the group of people who have been attending Family Capacity Building workshops and/or people who were given the expectation that they could join in Phase Two Part One but were unable to due to a change in criteria.

Widening the range of EGL participants provides the opportunity to see if the EGL approach works as well for disabled persons of different ages and stages of their lives.

Family Capacity Building

Thanks to the generosity of Te Pou and the Ministry of Health, our Family Capacity Building workshops have been running over the last few months facilitated by local disabled people and families. There is no cost to attend any of these workshops and you do not need to be engaged with Enabling Good Lives - individuals and their families are all welcome.

One of these workshops is the Young People See Hear Walk Together. A facilitator, Hanna writes below:

As part of Family Capacity Building, we have had the opportunity to hold workshops for young people as part of a newly formed group. The purpose of these workshops is to promote, encourage and provide opportunities to youth with disabilities to work towards their future and dreams, so that they can feel more comfortable making their own transition.

Some of the topics we have been working on are: "Planning for your future", and "Barriers to living the life that you want to". The young people who are involved came up with name for this workshop "Young People Hear See Walk Together", which is not a youth group, but where the Facilitators are able to help, support and guide them in their decisions on their pathway towards transition.

My name is Hanna, and I am one of the Facilitators of this workshop, which are held on some Tuesday nights from 7pm to 9pm. If you are interested to find out more information about Young People Hear See Walk Together or get involved, please contact Kerri Bonner on Kerri@eglives.co.nz or 0292220519



Looking for a carer?

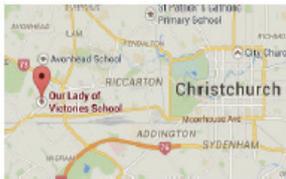
Seeking a new work opportunity?

Saturday 2 May

1 Hour Job Fair - Speed Dating



Location:
106 Main South Rd.
Christchurch



People with disabilities are looking for great new support people - to assist them achieve their goals.

A single event for many families to meet many potential new candidates to work with them!!!

starstraining4u@gmail.com

Ph: 027 445 3223

Project blog: tinyurl.com/starstraining4u

FAMILY EVENT

On the 25th of February, EGL held an information evening for school leavers and their families. This was well attended, with presentations on navigation, personal budgets, planning with schools, and building a good life into the future. There was an opportunity for people to ask questions about EGL and to meet the Navigators as well as other families. Thank you to Debbie Andrews from Helen Anderson Trust and Kaye Hyams from the Ministry of Education for their support with this event, and families who shared their stories.

S.T.A.R.S (SEEKING TALENTED AND RESOURCEFUL SUPPORTING-ACTORS)

You will remember in our last issue, a new initiative in Christchurch called... Come train with the S.T.A.R.S.

A group of Christchurch parents got together, to bring training for support people to work with their disabled young person. The idea came from the UK; a group called My Life who has had tremendous success with the programme.

The S.T.A.R.S. training runs for 5 consecutive Saturdays and families are invited in for the afternoon to meet, mix, mingle and above all, have fun with the trainees.

The next session is Saturday the 2nd of May from 1 to 2pm.

The S.T.A.R.S. team is holding a Speed Dating Job Fair for all families and job seekers in our community interested in trying this concept for an hour

S.T.A.R.S LINKS:

<http://youtu.be/lkubTO4Z9RY>

The starting point: <http://tinyurl.com/great-disability-staff>

Check out the online training programme: <https://www.udemy.com/starstraining4u>



Life Is Sweet As

Hi, my name is Amber Ranson. I live in North Loburn with my Mum and Andy on a farm. We have Highland cattle, two dogs and chickens.

I left Rangiora High School at the end of last term and I have already found myself a job. Ma found me a work experience placement at Adriel Rest Home in Amberley two years ago. They have now offered me 10 hours paid work a week. I will work Monday to Friday at the Rest Home; working with the elderly in the Sunshine Club and helping with the food and in the laundry.

I have already written a wish list of things I want to buy with my pay. An IPOD is top of the list at the moment, and my long term savings plan is for a trip to Disneyland. I will be busy studying The ACE Programme (Supporting the Older Person) through work.

I am also studying at CPIT in Rangiora with my Mum. On top of a busy week, I also fit in swimming, UPP Club and cooking for my family with my support worker.

In my spare time I like to do art and hang out with my friends Emma, Hanna, Janelle and Grace. We like going out to the movies and having lunch at the mall.



Q & A WITH TINA AT CPIT



What course are you doing at CPIT?

Last year when I was still at school I completed Level 1 Hospitality Supported Learning at CPIT. I have just started Level 2 Hospitality Supported Learning.

I really like going back to CPIT.

What do you do on this year's course?

I attend four days a week. On Tuesday and Wednesday we do hospitality training and on Thursday and Friday we are learning listening techniques.

What do you like about the Course?

It is fun. There are lots of girls and I like them.

On April fool's day we played tricks on the teacher. We changed the time on the clock and made a drink of hot chocolate for the teacher, it had water, dish washing liquid and milk in it. He fell for it!

What do you want to do when the course finishes?

I would love a career in hospitality; maybe working in a motel or in a café. It would be great to earn money.

NAVIGATORS AND SUPPORTED EMPLOYERS

Work is an important part of many young people's plan for the future. Looking for work, finding the right job and being able to sustain work over weeks, months and even years is often quite daunting.

The services of Supported Employment agencies can be invaluable in making this process successful for both the employee and the employer.

On the 23rd of February, the EGL Navigators held a workshop with six Supported Employment Providers in Christchurch to find out what they offer and how their services might play a part with the young people and families Navigators are working with.

The agencies who took part were Catapult Employment Services Trust, Workbridge, Vision Supported Employment Trust, SkillWise, CreativeWORKS Employment Service and Deaf Aotearoa.

Each agency who presented caters to a slightly different group of people, but all are committed to getting young disabled people into the right job. Navigators are keen to use the knowledge gained to assist EGL participants and their families to ensure they make the best use of all resources within the community.

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 Communities

e annette@eglives.co.nz

p 029 201 4841

Hannah Perry

Co-Manager of Families and Communities

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