

# Enabling Good Lives

Christchurch

## Director's Report

It doesn't seem possible that a year has passed since we launched Enabling Good Lives (EGL) in Christchurch and began to test ways to ensure that disabled persons and their families have more choice and control over how they are supported to live the life of their choice.



As with previous editions, this newsletter contains examples of some wonderful experiences of people getting great outcomes from such a personalised approach.

There have been some considerable challenges to the existing system, particularly in terms of ensuring that changing the way funds are allocated don't disadvantage people or agencies. I appreciate the hard work that has gone into finding ways to work around the issues and the patience of those of you who were directly affected. It is these things that make demonstrations like this so important to get right before anything is scaled up.

This has also encouraged us to ensure that we have the right systems and processes in place before we seek to expand the people we work with beyond school leavers.

We are keen to build on a collaborative start to our work with schools, providers, host agency and NASC. We have seen examples of great work from each of these which support and promote the ambitions of individuals and look forward to continued dialogue to ensure the best becomes the norm for EGL participants.

We have made some good progress on co-designing (between officials and disabled persons, community representatives etc.) a number of components that will ensure EGL is based on what works best for people and is sustainable. The most advanced at the moment are as follows:

- The future role, function and boundaries of EGL navigation and Navigators
- The purpose of a good life plan
- How funds are identified, pooled and used
- How EGL personalised funds are paid and accounted for

This ongoing work will identify some different ways of working for students leaving school this year to test new approaches and methods.

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This will also be informed by a piece of work that SAMS has sponsored which we are very grateful for which is seeking feedback from EGL participants and families on their experiences to date in a way that is led by disabled persons and families so it can become self-sustaining.

Finally, welcome to Pete Mason who has joined the Local Advisory Group (LAG) as a representative from Disabled Persons Organisations. We are still seeking a representative to join from the EGL Participants with an offer of support from People First in that regard so do let me, or a member of the EGL Team know if you are interested. There is an attendance fee payable. The LAG meets monthly and members are also often involved in one or more of the work-streams. It is a lively, diverse group that works really well together.

## Team News

### From the Director

I am really sad to announce the imminent departure of Ruth Jones from the Enabling Good Lives Team. Ruth has been inspirational in developing and deploying EGL Navigators and inspiring families. She has unique talents and expertise which will be sorely missed. However, she is determined to ensure we are left with

a proud legacy of talent to take the work forward and ensure the EGL way continues to build momentum and grows beyond the initial pilots. I mihi to Ruth, I have loved working with you, enjoyed the banter and whilst very sorry personally, I am sure our paths will continue to cross. On behalf of everyone involved with EGL thank you for your wonderful contribution to our work and we wish you every success for the future.

Welcome to April Lander who joins us in a part-time role as Programme

Manager. My report details some of the work-streams and April will have a key role in ensuring this collaborative and ambitious agenda is achieved.

Congratulations to Richard Buchanan who was delighted to be presented with NZDSN's Annual Leadership Award by Minister Turia in one of her last Ministerial duties recently.



### Workshop for people using Individualised Funding

Topic: RECRUITMENT

Need to recruit some staff? Having difficulty finding the right people?

**Then this workshop is for you.**

We will be covering:

- \* Expectations and responsibilities
- \* Job descriptions, interview basics & Individual Employment Agreements
- \* Getting & keeping good people on your team
- \* Resolving conflict

Plus much more.....

**Date:** 19th November

**Time:** 9:30 - 2:30pm

**Venue:** Papanui RSA (Charles Upham Room), 55 Bellvue Rd Papanui

**RSVP:** workshops@incharge.org.nz  
0508 462427

**Limited spaces available**

# Enabling Good Lives and Provider Connections

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



As we move well into Phase Two of the Enabling Good Lives (EGL) demonstration here in Christchurch and begin to work alongside young people leaving school this year, our connections and relationships with providers strengthen. A working group looking at provider development in relation to the EGL approach for Phase Two and beyond began meeting three months ago. This group has five local provider representatives along with representatives from the Ministries of Education, Health and Social Development who look at ways of supporting and assisting providers to respond to the support needs requested by EGL participants.

We are hosting an information evening on Wednesday the 15th of October between 5 and 8pm at the Papanui High School - more details are included below. This is a great opportunity to come and meet with the EGL team, specialised disability support providers and other community providers to assist you with your planning for next

year and beyond. We look forward to seeing you there!

The monthly provider lunchbox sessions continue to prove popular and offer an opportunity for providers to meet with EGL representatives and discuss topics related to the interface between providers and the EGL approach.

A workshop focusing on the design and successful negotiation of agreements for service with EGL participants and their families, as well as assisting providers on how to cost their supports and services, is being held on 30th October. More information will be distributed soon.

For EGL participants who purchase support from a provider, it is critical that there is an agreement in place that identifies such things as the actual support to be provided; the duration of support provision, the cost and how often payment will be expected.

Enjoy the wonderful spring weather!

Richard

## Enabling Good Lives Family Information Evening

The information evening is targeted at disabled students with High or Very High Needs ORS funding (and their families) who are leaving school in 2014, and also those who are thinking about leaving in 2015. Stalls will be hosted by vocational service providers, residential service providers, community providers and Manawanui (the funding host provider). There will also be EGL staff and Navigators there to chat to and answer questions.

If you are planning on leaving school in 2014 or 2015 and want to find out more about opportunities out there and how you can spend your disability support funding to help achieve your goals, come along!

**When: Wednesday 15 October 2014 from 5:00pm - 8:00pm**

**Where: Papanui High School, 30 Langdons Road - Johns Wing**

# Setting goals and enjoying life

Story written by Samuel and his family



Samuel Taylor has used some of his EGL personalised budget to fund using his own personal trainer. "My goal was to lose weight" said Samuel.

Samuel is studying at CPIT this year and this is where he was introduced to the gym. His good friend Nick, who is also on the same Work Skills course, joined the CPIT gym and Samuel thought that he would also like to join a gym.

Samuel needs to be supported at the gym to get the most out of the equipment and to use it safely. His Dad, Warren goes to Body Fix, and so Samuel decided to join in May this year. Body Fix is also conveniently on his way home from CPIT. Ben, his Personal Trainer, was initially concerned by how high Samuel's heart rate was after a workout. After four



short months Samuel is much fitter and his heart rate is a lot lower. He now really enjoys being weighed and says he feels better and stronger. He started at over 100 kilograms and is now 98.5kgs. Samuel has started changing his thinking about food and making healthier decisions. Samuel's goal to get down to 96kgs means that he will be getting a new Play Station game.

# Family workshops

Enabling Good Lives is keen to support you as disabled people and family members to vision and plan for a good life.

You have told us that one of the best ways to do this is to get together and learn from each other's experience and stories. This is an opportunity for families in the first year of the demonstration to support others who are on their planning journey now.

Some topics include but are not limited to:

- Dreaming big
- Building support networks (paid and unpaid)
- Independent living and steps towards this
- Life after school
- Making decisions
- Building communities
- Working with support services (negotiating what I want)
- The legal side (wills, guardianship, etc. and long-term support)
- Plus opportunities for young people to get together to discuss what is important for them

But this is not about what we think! This is about you leading the way and

working together to figure out what matters most to you right now.

**The first get together to meet the family facilitators and to decide where to next, is on Wednesday the 29th of October from 7pm to 9pm at the Papanui RSA, 55 Bellvue Avenue.**

Please RSVP for catering purposes; or if you cannot attend, feel free to direct suggestions and questions to Hannah Perry on [Hannah@eglives.co.nz](mailto:Hannah@eglives.co.nz).

Future dates for the diary are: 7pm-9pm on November 11 and 27 at Delta Community Support Trust, with more to come in the New Year.

# Jasmine is striving for her dreams at every opportunity

Jasmine's dream job is to work in a childcare centre, even though her Nan has tried to dissuade her. So when Jasmine received an interview for one, her Nan couldn't believe it.

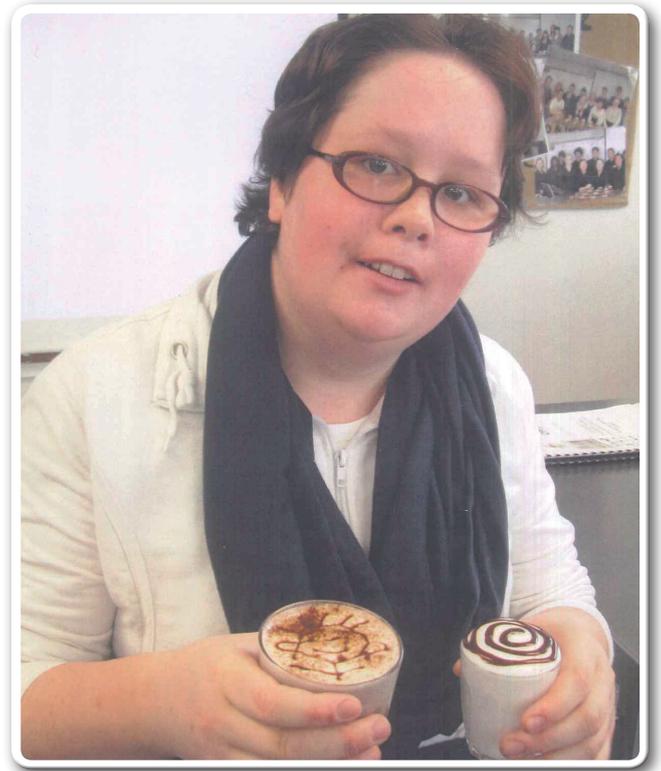
Jasmine attended Riccarton High School and while on a hospitality course field trip to the Copthorne Hotel Commodore, Jasmine enquired about a job. She worked there during two school holidays before leaving school, and currently she is there part-time.

Jasmine is keen to study NCEA Level 1 and will look at achieving more qualifications through her work. Jasmine passed all of her CPIT classes while at school, including a Plunket course and a woodwork class among others. Jasmine would love to build her own bed, and she is determined to attend night classes or Tas-Tech to build up her skills to achieve this.

Jasmine is keen to investigate using assistive computer software and is looking into Te Pou funding. Jasmine's EGL budget has helped her attend a Porse course and to buy a new computer. After researching, Jasmine emailed ABC childcare about the possibility of working in a childcare centre and she succeeded in securing a job interview for an on call casual basis at a variety of centres. Jasmine uses the bus and so she has

been working with an outreach worker from Independence House to map out different routes to get to the different workplaces.

Jasmine has a busy and exciting future ahead of her; getting engaged to Warren this year, living in a busy family household and taking every opportunity to follow her dreams.



## Update on Phase Two participants

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 colleagues assist EGL participants in planning for their future, buildings relationships in their local community and pooling funds from across the three Ministries in order to create a personalised budget with which they can resource a good life.

Unfortunately we are unable to work with other groups at present but aim to revisit this early next year once we have ensured that those leaving school have been properly supported. If you or a relative of yours meets the above criteria, we look forward to being in contact with them and your family in the very near future.

# Update from Ruth Jones

## Manager, Families and Community Development

I have decided to leave Enabling Good Lives and will be doing so towards the end of the year. Until then, it is business as usual. I have every faith that the brilliant work the Navigator team has done already and the comprehensive thinking about how we move forward will result in us demonstrating that a good life can happen. Participants are doing some great stuff and as importantly, they and their families are feeling more empowered and keen to show that a different way of supporting people can happen here and across the country. I especially honour the Navigators and wish the team well and look forward to hearing many more exciting stories.

I want to thank the participants and families who were the absolute pioneers during the first year of Enabling Good Lives. It has been an absolute pleasure to have met you and hear about how you are committed to ensuring that your son or daughter has a great life. We appreciate that there have been bumps on the road and acknowledge the gracious response we have had from whānau as the demonstration has worked its way through problem solving.

I also thank the families of participants who have been involved in designing what we call Phase Two of the demonstration. Your input into what navigation and planning looks and feels like have been the essential foundation to how we are designing what is most important now. Many of you have also been generous in speaking with us to groups of families and representatives from the three ministries. Again I acknowledge the commitment you have made to the demonstration as a whole and know that we could not do this

without you. Your legacy will benefit families now and in the future.

Watch out for our family capacity building workshops. We look forward to these starting on the 29th of October. These workshops are for families and participants to support each other in learning how to vision, plan and safeguard the good life planning that you have. See the ad on Page 4 for further information.



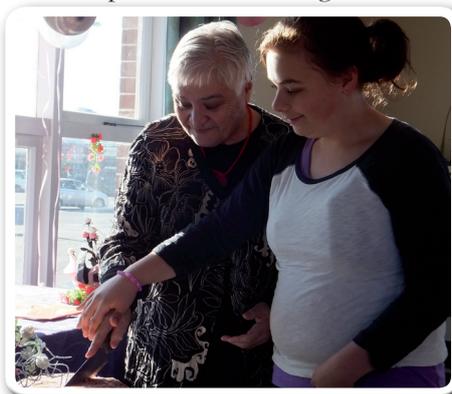
## Latest news

### The New Zealand Disability Support Network Conference (NZDSN)

Enabling Good Lives was a part of the recent NZDSN conference. The theme to the conference this year was 'The Good Life: Work, Home, Community' and this gave us the opportunity to contribute the fantastic stories about participants during our first year. We also presented on communities, and how to involve young people one at a time, along with a Māori perspective on disability and a general update on the demonstration. It was definitely evident the great work some providers are doing to ensure that disabled people have a fantastic life across the country.

### Presentation to Minister Turia

In July we had a chance to share with Minister Turia the stories and views of families who started their Enabling Good Lives journey with us in September last year. Participants and family members were, as ever, articulate in describing what the Enabling Good Lives approach meant for them and how they are keen to spread the word and be a part of future design work.



Thank you to the Minister for her time and ongoing commitment to the demonstration. We wish her well for her retirement, but know that she will continue to serve the communities that she has been, or is now, part of.

### Going Places

The Enabling Good Lives team has been pleased to work with NZCare and have their transition coordinators join our Navigator team. Nicky and Kate provided awesome navigation support to the young people they were working with under Going Places, (two of the stories in the newsletter are former Going Places students) as well as being gracious in sharing their knowledge and experience with our team. The Going Places demonstration was completed in June and while Nicky and Kate are no longer in the team, the success of the young people they were supporting is their ongoing legacy.

# A young woman's experience at the recent Support Workers event

## Connecting people with Support Workers

Aurelie found out about the Support Worker event while volunteering at Delta Community Trust where an EGL Navigator also works. She went with a friend to the event where they both formed meaningful relationships with

families, and now even her flatmates have found work.

The setting was ideal to meet new people, she said; rather than sending a CV to a stranger. Aurelie believes the relationship is most important, while having the right skills, as well as having the ability to meet in person to talk with the disabled person and their family.

Aurelie started working as a volunteer for people with Alzheimer's in France, and she has also worked with children with disabilities in the school holidays. She arrived in Christchurch in February as an exchange student and is studying Political Science, specialising in Public Health.

Aurelie successfully engaged with two families from the event and now supports two young people while studying full time. Some activities they

do are developing life skills such as road safety and food preparation. She enjoys spending time with them, going to the park, shopping and working on their goals with them. One of the young people she works with has taken on a new and important role in the family; becoming the translator between Aurelie and their parents which they thoroughly enjoy.

Aurelie shared a lot of ideas for follow up events and attracting like-minded support workers, so watch this space!

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](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.

## Contact us

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