



Outcome 7 - Choice and control

Relationships **Leadership**
Building Community
Opportunities
Possible Together
Right Direction
Self Determination
Connections Change
Value

“We have choice and control over our lives”

New Zealand Disability Strategy, 2016-2026

When we're young our families, whānau and carers support us in making important decisions. As we grow we want increasingly to take control of our lives. The views and opinions of individuals, and their support network, need to be taken into account accordingly when choices are made about the services they receive and what is best for them.

Image: Word cloud created from the voices of partners/participants in the Waikato Enabling Good Lives Programme

Strategy In Action

Enabling Good Lives

Enabling Good Lives (EGL) is a new, principles-based approach to supporting disabled people that offers greater choice and control over the supports they receive so that they can plan for the lives they want.

The initiative brings together funding from the Ministries of Health, Education and Social Development in a single funding package that can be used flexibly, whether it's for employment, education, training, sports, recreation or connections within the community.

Since 2011 when the EGL programmes started in Canterbury and the Waikato, approximately 470 people have participated from a range of ages and ethnicities.

One young lady's life has improved in many ways since she moved to the Waikato and joined the EGL programme.

Since transferring, the energetic and passionate 29-year-old has found a place to live and a part time job. She has a “Connector/Tūhono” who has helped her with making these important community connections. Her brother manages her EGL direct funding, allowing her to focus on building the life she wants to live. The young lady also has a support worker to spend time with and to share her interest in acrylic painting.

She has a new-found pride in herself for achieving so much in a short space of time. Her future goals include increasing her hours at work, being accepted into the Wintec computer course and to get her learner's licence.

The EGL approach is achieving its objective when it gives a person greater choice and control over the disability supports available to them and enables them to use more mainstream and natural supports. Another benefit that has been realised is that disability support funding is used more efficiently.

Due to their success, the Canterbury and Waikato EGL programmes are being extended and the learnings from them are informing the nationwide transformation of the disability support system.

Resources and Guidance

Enabling Good Lives

Enabling Good Lives (EGL) is a new approach to supporting disabled people that offers greater choice and control over the supports they receive. The approach has been demonstrated in Canterbury and the Waikato.

→ website enablinggoodlives.co.nz

→ email enabling_good_lives_waikato@msd.govt.nz

National Disability Support System Transformation

Over the next three years, \$27.1 million will be invested in expanding the successful Waikato and Christchurch EGL programmes. This transformation of the national disability support system will enable disabled children and adults all over New Zealand, and their families, to benefit from this new approach to social investment, giving them greater choice and control over their supports and lives.

→ website odi.govt.nz/nz-disability-strategy/other-initiatives/transforming-the-disability-support-system/