

Enabling Good Lives

Have Your Say on the Disability Support Services (DSS) Consultation: National EGL Leadership Guidance for the community

The Ministry of Social Development (MSD) is changing how disability support is assessed, allocated, and provided. **This is your chance to shape the system.** If you don't speak up, decisions will be made without you.

🌟 **Submissions close soon—act now!** Even one sentence can make a difference.

Why This Matters

The current system is outdated, unfair, and full of barriers. **We need a disability support system that works for disabled people, families/whānau and Deaf/Hard of Hearing, not against them.** The National Enabling Good Lives (EGL) Leadership Group believes any changes must be based on:

- ✔ **Disability rights and EGL principles** – Support should help disabled people and their families/whānau thrive, not just survive.
 - ✔ **A person-centred approach** – No more one-size-fits-all solutions.
 - ✔ **Fairness, transparency, and flexibility** – The system must be equitable and easy to navigate.
 - ✔ **High-trust, low-bureaucracy funding** – Disabled people and families/whānau should have real choice and control.
 - ✔ **Proper recognition of carers** – Families and whānau need adequate support in order to sustain their caregiving responsibilities and capacity.
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What Needs to Change?

◆ Fixing Needs Assessments

- Assessments must be aligned with the vision and principles of Enabling Good Lives, consider the unique context of the person and their family/whānau and consider all contributing factors towards building a good life beyond what is essential
- Disabled people and families/whānau must be the lead voice in an assessment process
- Greater investment is required in self-assessment tools

◆ Supports That Adapt to Life Changes

- Opportunities to re-evaluate resourcing should be open to disabled people, Deaf/Hard of Hearing and families/whānau at any time, not rigid timeframes.

- People should get the support that makes the greatest difference (e.g., new diagnoses, increased needs, transitions, or new life experiences).

◆ **Recognising Caregiving Responsibilities and Carer Needs**

- Policy should recognise that disabled people and Deaf/Hard of Hearing can also be carers.
- All carers' mental health, financial constraints, and overall caregiving load **must** be factored in.
- Support should acknowledge family dynamics, stress, employment, and social isolation.

◆ **Flexible Funding, Not Red Tape**

- Disabled people, Deaf/Hard of Hearing, and families/whānau should always decide how funding is used.
- The system must be **high trust**, not burdened with unnecessary paperwork.
- No restrictive lists should dictate how funding is used; EGL principles and disability rights should guide decisions.
- Guidance through examples of beneficial use of supports can be provided for new DSS clients beginning their journey.
- Regional Leadership Groups and kaituhono should be established nationwide to support capacity building of disabled people, deaf and their families/whānau.

How to Have Your Say (Takes 5 Minutes!)

- ✂ **Option 1:** Fill out the MSD survey on the [MSD website](#).
- ✂ **Option 2:** Email your feedback to **DSS_submissions@msd.govt.nz**
- ✂ **Option 3:** Record a NZSL video or audio submission and email it to **NZSL_submissions@msd.govt.nz**

Short on time? Just send this one sentence:

"Any DSS system transformations must align with disability rights and EGL vision and principles."

🔴 **Submissions close soon. If you want change, now is the time to demand it!**