

Enabling Good Lives

Christchurch

Director's Report

Gordon Boxall

Director Enabling Good Lives



With Christmas just about upon us I wish all engaged upon the EGL journey a fun and peaceful holiday season. There is always more that could have been done but I am confident that we have made significant progress this year in demonstrating the value and importance of school leavers with high and complex needs, along with families, having more choice and control over determining and resourcing what makes a good life for them (you).

Indeed the evidence is there, with a great response to the Feedback Loop that we are very grateful to SAMS for initiating and resourcing. Having this led by family members with close ties to EGL was particularly pleasing and thanks to all those who participated, some 23 of you. Whilst most of you thought EGL was very much a good and positive thing, we will also be addressing the challenges you described, particularly around administration and paperwork. Unfortunately it has proven very complicated to keep things simple!

It feels like we have turned a corner in building trust and rapport with the different players who all have important roles in people's lives; the school transition teams whose work is so crucial to set the basis of a good life; support providers who have responded so positively to personalise services and adjust their offerings in line with EGL principles – and to note that leading providers have been pushing for this change for many years; the NASC who have undertaken a lot of work to enable funding across the three Ministries to be pooled, allocated and accounted for; Manawanui in Charge who have played 'the host' so ably; local ministry officials who have given up so much time so we can find ways to make things work as well as we can. Ultimately, it is down to building relationships and trust. Our colleagues in Wellington have also worked hard to remove barriers that this sort of innovation always creates when faced with a system with rules and processes that don't easily fit. Some of the challenges have been considerably complex and we are designing new arrangements that will ensure things operate more smoothly in future. More on these in the next newsletter.

I am very proud of the EGL Team and the skills and expertise we are able to offer to EGL participants whether navigation, provider support and back office

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functions. We aim to hit the ground running next year and ensure there is a good understanding of EGL wherever we go. With that in mind we will be holding regular open meetings in different locations for anyone to be able to come along to ask questions or share experiences. Watch this space!

I am delighted that Te Pou has funded Family Capacity Building and details of the next workshop will be arranged shortly. If you are not on the mailing list for these then please contact Monique as detailed below. We will have more information at the January family picnic and I look forward to seeing/meeting many of you there.

Please enjoy the features in this edition of the EGL, Christchurch Newsletter. Hopefully they provide good insight into EGL and how it works. Reading the life experiences of EGL participants is what makes everything worthwhile. They also emphasise what can be achieved when the point of control is with the people most directly affected and their families combined with input from friends, schools, communities and support providers.

Enabling Good Lives and Provider Connections

Richard Buchanan, Manager of Provider Relationships and Personalised Funding

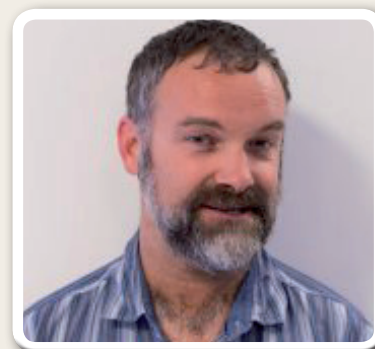
It is hard to believe that Christmas is upon us as we get caught up in a mad dash to the end of the year. We are now half way through Phase Two of the Christchurch Enabling Good Lives (EGL) demonstration and continue to work alongside providers in testing and developing different ways of supporting disabled people and their families. I would like to acknowledge the Provider Development Working Group for their continued work looking at ways of assisting providers to respond to an increasingly individualised way of engaging with people wishing to purchase support from them.

An information evening was hosted by the EGL team in October at Papanui High School. While we were unable to attract much interest in the event

from 2014 and 2015 school leavers, there was an outstanding number of providers present and it proved to be a great networking opportunity. We are looking to host a similar event earlier in 2015 and will ensure adequate notice of the event is provided to ensure more people are able to attend and have the opportunity to meet with the EGL team, specialised disability support providers and other community providers to assist you with your planning for the year ahead and beyond.

A workshop focusing on the design and successful negotiation of agreements for services with EGL participants and their families as well as assisting providers on how to personalise their supports and services was held in October. There was a great attendance from a variety of providers who explored ways of developing agreements with disabled people and their families as well as pitching what they are able to offer people to those people who may wish to purchase their services.

A workshop focusing on enabling providers to review themselves using the principles of EGL was held in early December and was attended by an enthusiastic group of people. This opportunity was facilitated by Mark Benjamin from SAMS and great discussions about the enhancement of the role of providers in the EGL approach were had. A follow up



workshop will be had with this group in February/March next year.

The final monthly Provider Lunchbox session was held at the end of November and will resume on Tuesday 27th January 2015 – see further details in this newsletter.

Although I mentioned this in the last newsletter, I cannot stress enough, the importance of EGL participants who wish to purchase support from a provider, 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. If such negotiations are not able to take place before the end of the year, it is strongly recommended that they take place prior to or soon after support begins to be provided. Members of the EGL team can assist with this if required.

Best wishes for the festive and holiday season.

Navigating the principles of Enabling Good Lives - Hannah Perry, Lead Navigator

The Navigator's job is essentially to help the individual and the family figure out what a good life might look like, and who might be able to help. If we look at some of the principles of Enabling Good Lives we see how Navigators can make it easier for individuals and their families to live better lives. To see the rest of the principles; check out www.odi.govt.nz/eglives

Self-determination: Disabled people are in control of their lives.

A Navigator will listen to what you want. They won't make decisions on your behalf; they'll encourage you to look at all the possibilities, and make a plan about what a good life would look like for you and your whānau. You decide WHAT you want; the Navigator will help you figure out HOW you might achieve that. They will help you to think about the future. It's not just about 'what's going to happen next year when I'm not at school?' but thinking about what makes your life good; having a home, relationships, something you enjoy doing.

Mainstream first: Disabled people are supported to access mainstream services.

Navigators will encourage you to look at all the options. There is a wealth of opportunities in people's local communities. A Navigator will not find these for you, but they will be able to point you in the right direction. If you choose specialist disability services, Navigators should work with the service and your family to ensure that what is being provided helps you move along your good life plan.

Person-centred: Disabled people have supports that are tailored to their individual needs and goals, and that take a whole life approach rather than being split across programmes.

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. The first Lunchbox meeting for 2015 is January 27.

A key part of Enabling Good Lives is a flexible personal budget, but a Navigator will encourage you to think about everything else first. Where in the community can I find this? Who else can help me? What can I do for them? Once these and many other questions have been asked, then we look at funding to fill in the gaps.

Relationship building: Supports build and strengthen relationships between disabled people, their whānau and community.

Navigators will encourage you to gather the people around who will help you to live the life you want to. The job of the Navigator is really to do themselves out of a job! To support individuals and families to be well connected, confident and resourced so that they can live good lives in great communities.

On behalf of the Enabling Good Lives Navigators, I extend our warmest wishes to all of the individuals and families we have had the privilege of meeting this year. We are looking forward to 2015; a year filled with people identifying great dreams, taking practical steps and connecting with others to achieve these.

Cara's good life will continue after school

Cara Melrose-Dimock is having a busy final year at Waitaha School.

She has had many opportunities to increase her work ready skills and independence as she prepares to leave school.

Cara has participated in a part-time work skills course at CPIT and has had several work experience opportunities. She has also had 'tasters' to see what she may be interested in for next year.

Thanks to a team effort, Cara's getting-about-town skills have improved which are a fantastic confidence boost for her.

The work experience she has secured at an Early Childhood Centre through a contact in EGL is set to continue in 2015.

The Transition Teacher at school, Jane Ballinger, has worked tirelessly to enable the best possible outcomes



for Cara beyond school, meeting regularly with the Navigator to maximise options.

Cara will carry on building her work skills at CPIT next year as well as utilise two Providers to support her interests, work skill development and community engagement. There are many openings in the suburb where Cara lives (in a supported flatting situation), to join in local events and groups, as was discovered by an EGL community scan. Cara's post school horizons have broadened



thanks to school, EGL, family and Brackenridge all working together.

Brooke Larmen is striving high

Brooke dreams for a career in Childcare and is well on her way thanks to the support and guidance she received while attending Cashmere High School.



Brooke dreams for a career in childcare and is well on her way thanks to the support and guidance she received while attending Cashmere High School. Brooke has completed the last of her school exams and plans to enjoy a trip with her sister to Auckland to enjoy the Katy Perry concert later this month. While at school, Brooke studied and completed a mixture of NCEA Level

2 and 3 courses, including Hospitality, Childcare, Media Studies, English and Health. She also enjoyed using her skills in Drama while volunteering at a student-led radio station. Brooke's plan is to move on to tertiary study in 2015, to start her training in childcare. Brooke and her family are very proud that she is the first in her family to achieve NCEA Level 3 credits.

Jason Beswick and his many achievements

Jason shared his successes at the Riccarton High School Prizegiving recently.

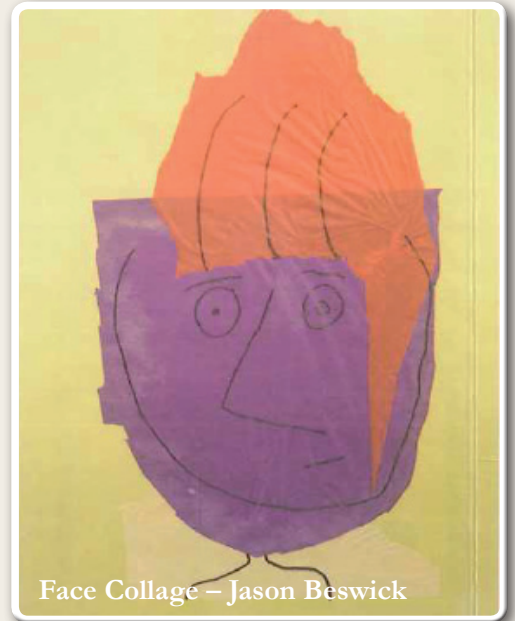
The staff commended him on his academic achievements in several mainstream subjects including extension Maths/English and next year Jason will be focussing on achieving more NCEA credits before he graduates. Jason is attending CPTT and successfully completed courses in Construction and Hospitality. He has also completed work placements at Rannerdale Veteran's Care and JB Joinery. Jason plans to join his local Drama group next year and excelled in

his end of year school production. A few 'Tasters' have been arranged for next year which will provide even more connections for work after graduation.

This year Jason was captain of the basketball team and participated in Tee Ball, 10 pin bowling and swimming. He received Riccarton's Sportsman of the Year award, 2014. Jason was commended for exemplifying the Riccarton Way, and also earned the General Excellence Award.

Art is another one of Jason's gifts and he has won an award of \$1000 from the IHC Art Awards. The Art Awards is an annual competition open to all New Zealanders with intellectual disabilities, aged 13 or older. The IHC Art Awards started in 2004 to showcase the talents of people with intellectual disabilities in New Zealand. Three judges from across the creative industries choose the top 30 artworks from three regional exhibitions. A big event night and

an auction is held for the finalists with cash prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd placing. 100% of the auction money raised goes directly to the artist. Jason and his parents were invited to the prize giving in Wellington, expense free.



Tarwyn's many talents

Tarwyn Nicholson has many talents and is using these in the local community.

He lives in a supported flatting situation in town. After doing a search on the CINCH (Community Information Christchurch) website, EGL contacted Noel Graham from the Christchurch Woodturners Association. He was keen to meet Tarwyn and see his skills. After several visits to Noel's shed, Tarwyn started attending a monthly woodwork group. A friend of the family supports Tarwyn on the day and they have a great time together, making amazing things like bowls, pens and toys. Tarwyn continues to visit Noel's



Tarwyn at Noel's shed with his amazing bowl

shed once a month to do his homework in-between the monthly group. Lathe work is in Tarwyn's family and everyone is thrilled he has the opportunity

to carry this on. Another talent of Tarwyn's is art work. Through an EGL contact in the St Albans Residents Association we became aware of a local art group meeting on a Monday and Friday. Tarwyn has been going to the Monday class and will continue next year on Fridays. He has created drawings, cardboard constructions and is currently exploring watercolours. The St Albans Art Society members are getting to know Tarwyn and have encouraged his work and participation. Both activities have been supported by Tarwyn's manager, Owen Clouston of Hohepa, Edgeware.



Tarwyn's portrait painting at St Albans art group

Imagine Better Conference

Update from the Andrell family

Our two daughters Shannen and Keriann are part of the EGL demonstration in Christchurch. Being part of this unique group has built our confidence as a family for a much brighter future for our daughters and ourselves. Part of this for us is attending as many get togethers that are on offer as we can. I would like to share a couple of outcomes from this year with you. Please also watch our YouTube video here: <http://youtu.be/3UchRcbWmp8>

Firstly: I found out about the Imagine Better conference through Hannah Perry our EGL family Navigator. At the same time Te Pou had just started offering training grants for staff/PAs to attend conferences. I applied for two

of our daughters PAs to attend the Imagine Better Moving On – Success in Transition Conference. We were successful and I attended also through a separate grant from another organisation. Here is a

photo of us with two of the keynote speakers. It was a wonderful opportunity to be able to spend time with Shannen and Keriann's wonderful PAs and most importantly we came away with a bigger vision for Shannen and Keriann's future through the speakers' vast experiences. I was also given an opportunity at the conference to speak along with Richard Buchanan and Ruth Jones about our family's experiences so far in EGL. We feel very blessed as a family to be part of the EGL demonstration. My advice to new participants is to get involved and attend the get togethers on offer when you can.

Secondly: I would also like to share a new initiative that is coming to Christchurch. You can also see this on the Te Pou Training directory called... Come train with the S.T.A.R.S

Training with the S.T.A.R.S [Seeking Talented And Resourceful Supporting-actors]: A unique collaboration to match the best candidates to our children.



Gaye Leary (Manawanui), Annick Janson, S.T.A.R.S mascot knight, Irene Andrell and Sue Banks



Jackson, Sarah Jarrett PA, Irene Andrell, Mum, Patrick Schwarz, and Nicola Tyson PA

The S.T.A.R.S. training will take place during five consecutive Saturdays [9am to 4pm], starting February 14th 2015. Each session will be run by a family, on the theme of a movie liked by their child. This cinematic metaphor will also allow us to expand in a range of creative communication. S.T.A.R.S will endeavour to discover the unique talents of the supporting-actors with the aim of matching them with a compatible Star.

You can find out more about this by following these links:

<http://www.tepou.co.nz/training/directory/view/294>

<http://fasttrackinclusiontrust.blogspot.co.nz/2014/09/launching-creative-recruiting-idea.html>

EGL Family Picnic at the Groynes

Bring your family and friends along for a day of fun, games and a chance to catch up with other families and the EGL team. Meet us at Picnic Area 2c from 11am on Saturday the 17th of January. EGL will provide a sausage sizzle and families are welcome to bring a picnic. RSVP to Monique@eglives.co.nz and please invite your family members and friends.

A day in the life of Rachel Baker

The Warehouse Red Shirts in Schools is a Gateway programme based on the Customer Service Award.

The programme provides students with a 10 day in store experience at The Warehouse. Credits gained by students participating on the programme can be used towards the National Certificate in Retail (Level 2). See more here: <http://www.serviceiq.org.nz/schools/gateway/red-shirts-in-schools/>

Rachel shares her experience with this programme below.

I worked at The Warehouse last Thursday. I arrive there about 830am. We had a meeting about The Warehouse. Then we had a quiz. When it finished I helped set up Christmas trees and decorations until morning tea. Sara came upstairs for work book. I do Section 5 with Sara and others. We had lunch after work book. My work with clothes is to check the sizes are right and make sure same clothes. I was checking clothes until 3pm. It was a busy day for me and I enjoyed working there.



EGL School Leavers Event

We are pleased to hold a meeting for current EGL participants and invite 2015 school leavers who have High or Very High ORS funding to learn more about the EGL demonstration in 2015.

Updated information and FAQ evening about EGL including:

- How navigation works
- How our EGL personal budget works
- Planning with schools during transition
- Building a good life post-school
- Family Capacity Building

When: Wednesday 25 February 2015 at 6:30pm

Where: Delta Community Support Trust, 105 North Avon Road, Richmond

Please RSVP or if you have any questions, contact Monique Harding at Monique@eglives.co.nz or 03 961 4307.

We look forward to seeing many of you there.

Review from Information evening on 15 October

Feedback from a presenter:

It was a great opportunity to network with other providers and speak to families – there was not a great turn out of families but I have been to several expo's over the years where this has been the case.

It is always important that we keep the information flowing through to the people who need it. So again thank you for the invitation.

A huge thank you for all those who attended, and also to Papanui High School for hosting the event.

Meeting with Minister Nicky Wagner

EGL warmly welcomes Hon Nicky Wagner as the new Minister for Disabilities Issues.

We had a fantastic first family meeting with Minister Nicky Wagner on the 24th of October. The Minister heard about family experiences of the demonstration, including the highlights, and what we could do differently next time.



Farewell

The EGL team wish Navigator Maxine Palmer well for the future and thank her for the contribution she has made to EGL this year. Maxine finished working for EGL at the end of November.

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 will be established soon. In the meantime please go to www.odi.govt.nz/eglives for further information.

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