

The Principles of Enabling Good Lives

The principles of Enabling Good Lives (EGL) underpin the current system transformation for disability services in New Zealand. The principles and vision of Enabling Good Lives were developed by disabled persons and families.

The principles of Enabling Good Lives are:

Self-determination

Disabled people are in control of their lives.

Beginning early

Invest early in families and whānau to support them; to be aspirational for their disabled child; to build community and natural supports; and to support disabled children to become independent, rather than waiting for a crisis before support is available.

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.

Ordinary life outcomes

Disabled people are supported to live an everyday life in everyday places; and are regarded as citizens with opportunities for learning, employment, having a home and family, and social participation – like others at similar stages of life.

Mainstream first

Disabled people are supported to access mainstream services before specialist disability services.

Mana enhancing

The abilities and contributions of disabled people and their families are recognised and respected.

Easy to use

Disabled people have supports that are simple to use and flexible.

Relationship building

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

Care Matters support the Enabling Good Lives (EGL) vision and principles that are the foundation for the current system transformation. One of the EGL principles is '*mainstream first*'. Care Matters promotes families being able to successfully access all universal supports and services.

Another EGL principle is '*self-determination*'. Care Matters also supports the right for families to have full information so they can make informed choices regarding all options – including specialist supports and services.

Care Matters has some information on [Transforming the Disability System and Enabling Good Lives](#) for carers and whānau.

If you want more detailed information or want to see the latest cabinet decisions, please go to [Enabling Good Lives](#) – a new approach to supporting disabled people.