

Disability Directorate e-newsletter

No. 1 June 2019

ISSN 2253-1386

From Toni Atkinson Group Manager, Disability Support Services



Welcome to our June edition of the Disability Directorate newsletter. As always, we can't believe we are halfway through the year!

The DSS team has been working alongside new staff in the Directorate who are focusing on some planning work for the future of disability support services. This has meant an opportunity to look at the learnings to date from System Transformation, build on the work of the New Model and determine how these learnings can be incorporated into ensuring we have a sustainable disability support system that delivers for disabled people, their families and whānau.

As part of this work, Adri Isbister, Deputy Director-General Disability, is leading development of a new Strategic Plan for the Disability Directorate. Over the coming months, stakeholders will be asked to provide input into this document so that we can be clear about our direction of travel as a sector. We welcome your input into this process so keep an eye out for opportunities to contribute.

There has been a flurry of activity over the past few months responding to a number of requests for information. If you would like a copy of a specific document or want some information from DSS, please feel free to contact us directly. We are more than happy to share information on the work we are doing and this means you do not always have to go down the formal path of an Official Information Act request.

Lastly, by the time this newsletter goes out, Budget 2019 will have been announced. The team is working hard on setting budgets for the 2019/20 financial year, once our new budget is confirmed. We have heard the feedback from the sector over the past few months



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and the concerns about changes that could impact people's supports due to financial pressures. Please be assured we are working hard to land a budget that we think will recognise where we are experiencing the greatest pressures, so that we can continue to deliver support and services where, and in the way, they are most needed.

Enabling Good Lives

Christchurch

Hannah Perry, Enabling Good Lives Lead, Ministry of Health

Kia ora whānau

The vision of Enabling Good Lives is that disabled people and their families will have greater choice and control over their lives and supports. Since 2013 we have been working towards making that a reality for young people leaving school in Christchurch.

School leavers now have more self-determination, and we have been privileged to be part of the journey as the mana of young people and their families is enhanced, pursuing outcomes that contribute to a good life for any young person; engaging in further education, beginning careers, moving out of home, building friendships and relationships, having fun and learning skills.

As if watching young people grow and communities flourish is not enough, it has also been heartening to watch the development of our local service providers who assist these young people to achieve great things. This is showcased in our annual Next Steps expo, a collaborative event that is run on \$0 budget!

This year we were grateful to Haeata Community Campus for allowing us to use their amazing new space. There was a large number and diverse range of exhibitors, from disability service providers who wanted to network with the community, to youth groups and organisations who are keen to welcome and include all people. There were also demonstrations, including kapa haka, choir and an e-bike!! Of course the highlight is always the young (and not so young) people who run their own businesses, and showcase the products and services they have on offer. There were 11 social enterprises present at Next Steps this year, including DJ Ramanui (who recently gighed at a Canterbury Charity Hospital event) and artist Harini – check out her [colour explosion](#) website. →



Above: DJ Ramanui
Below: Artist Harini





Over the last few years it has been a pleasure to work alongside so many local disability service providers as they adapt what they have traditionally offered. They have worked hard to be of service to young people and their families wanting new and different kinds of support. It is encouraging that providers are working collaboratively, building on each other's strengths and creativity to assist disabled people and their families achieve great (and ordinary!) outcomes in their lives.

A great example of this is a day service running the payroll on behalf of a family who wish to have support in their own home. While choice and control is something that EGL families have come to expect, it is also encouraging to see services work to be increasingly person-centred and mana enhancing for all the people they serve.

Waikato

Kate Cosgriff, Director, Enabling Good Lives Waikato

The Enabling Good Lives Waikato demonstration has completed its fourth year. Nearly 400 people are part of EGL Waikato, 354 of whom have a personal budget in place.

The third phase of the Waikato developmental evaluation was recently completed and is available on the EGL website <http://www.enablinggoodlives.co.nz/current-demonstrations/enabling-good-lives-waikato/waikato-evaluations/>

Phase Three aimed to understand how, and to what extent, disabled people, families and whānau participating in EGL Waikato achieved anticipated outcomes. We interviewed 55 people as part of this phase. A particular focus of the evaluation was the experiences of Māori and Pacific peoples.

The key finding was that people participating are clearly experiencing success and achieving their outcomes through EGL. The demonstration was described as generally well delivered but with some opportunities for further refinement and improvement.

The main findings included:

- 71% of people had achieved all or most of their own outcomes, with another 20% achieving about half of their outcomes
- 90% of participants had experienced each of the EGL outcomes (detailed on the next page)
- Tāngata whaikaha (Māori disabled) identified that they felt safe and supported, particularly in comparison with previous systems. They valued having Māori tūhono, and had experienced mātauranga-informed practice that responded to them as tāngata whaikaha and as whānau
- Tagata Pasifika experienced EGL as family focused and valued positive relationships with tūhono/connectors. They felt EGL had created real opportunities, choice and freedom. The majority of Tagata Pasifika achieved most of what they set out to do.
- Overall 89% of participants thought the demonstration made a lot of difference to them and their whānau, with another 7% saying it made some difference.
- The four key pathways in EGL that people identified as leading to self-determination, choice and control were: flexibility and freedom to direct your own life; individualised supports – what, when and how; self-managed personal budgets and tūhono/connector relationships.



The Enabling Good Lives outcomes have guided the work of the demonstration since it began and are:

- I am known and connected in my community
- I have the supports I need, they work for me, when and how I need them
- I can choose who can assist me with my ongoing support
- I control and direct the support I need
- I have ideas and goals for my future and plan for them
- I can do things important to me
- I am in control of my life and what happens to me
- I make choices and decisions that direct my life
- I can build strong relationships that are important to me
- I know how to, and I can access information, support and funding at the time I need it
- I have rights
- I can use community options, connections and services that are for everyone before I have to use specialised disability services
- The contribution I make is recognised and respected
- I can contribute to the lives of others and to my community in ways I want to
- I can choose where I live and who I live with.

Mana Whaikaha

Wendy Illingworth, Programme Lead (Acting), System Transformation, Disability Directorate

We all know that having strong and supportive networks is one of the building blocks for a good life. Some of the Mana Whaikaha Connectors have been working on building strong and supportive networks within the MidCentral community.

Connector, Kerry Harper, is working with people who have had a stroke to set up a coffee group. This has been a great support group and impacted the people attending in different ways – including Pricilla and Paea.

Pricilla

Pricilla had a stroke seven years ago and came to the attention of Mana Whaikaha after being referred from the Stroke Central Field Officer. She is currently using a power chair and lives independently in Pahiatua.

Pricilla was contacted by Stroke Central and invited to the first coffee group in Pahiatua. Pricilla embraced the concept of the coffee group and immediately volunteered to deliver flyers, arrange guest speakers and to provide support where required.

She now has the courage to live independently again and is thriving. She has become a member of a gym and is currently taking singing with local kindergarten children. In Pricilla's words, 'I now have a purpose.'





Paea

Paea was referred by the Rangitaane Iwi to see how Mana Whaikaha may be able to support her. Paea had a stroke some years back and has had rehabilitation through Strive Rehabilitation, focused on her communication due to having aphasia.

Paea now has a part-time job at a local college as a cleaner and lives independently. She is completely independent and not accessing any funded supports other than her rehabilitation programme. She was connected to a community singing group and has been keen to take on roles within the stroke coffee group.

Carers' Strategy Action Plan 2019–2023

Stuart Parkinson, Senior Policy Analyst, Disability Directorate

Carers, whānau and the wider public are encouraged to make their views known on the draft Carers' Strategy Action Plan 2019–2023 in July and August 2019.

Carers are people who support friends, family, whānau and kainga who have a disability, health condition, illness, or injury that means they need help with day-to-day living. The carers' role is very important and the demand for care is growing.

Carers may have poor health and financial status with little time left to work, study, socialise, look after their own wellbeing or pursue interests. Carers need to be supported in their role and avoid illness or disability as a result of caring.

The Carers' Strategy is a cross-Government partnership led by the Ministry of Social Development with the Carers' Alliance (which represents a network of over 45 not-for-profit organisations). The Ministry of Health is a key partner.

The new Action Plan seeks to support carer wellbeing and ensure the care role is sustainable. It is being shaped by carers' voices, research and advice from people and organisations who work with carers.

The new Action Plan has four focus areas reflecting what carers have said is most important:

- Recognition: recognising carers and their contributions
- Navigation: ensuring carers receive support and services
- Support: caring for carers – supporting wellbeing and building skills
- Balance: supporting paid work, study and other interests.

In addition to working-age women, who are the majority of carers, there is also a focus on Māori, Pacific, younger and older carers. The voices of all carers need to be heard, along with ethnic and migrant communities and disabled carers.

Please use your networks to help promote this opportunity to have a say.

More information about the Carers' Strategy, including a summary and the full discussion document of the draft Action Plan can be found online at www.msd.govt.nz/carers.



Carers are welcome to attend a workshop in their area in July and August 2019. Anyone can also provide feedback by:

- filling out an online survey on www.msd.govt.nz/carers
- emailing a written submission at carers.strategy@msd.govt.nz, or
- posting their submission to Ministry of Social Development, PO Box 1556, Wellington 6140, New Zealand.

Transforming respite

Deborah Mills, Development Manager, Disability Directorate

Work towards implementing the actions in the Respite Strategy has been focused on replacing the Carer Support Subsidy with flexible respite budgets called 'I Choose'.

We've done a lot of work, including finalising the operational policy, developing information for people and setting up a new payment system.

However, more work is still needed before we can go ahead with implementation. This is because we need to ensure that when we implement I Choose, it is sustainable in the longer term, and that disabled people and their whānau are able to continue to get the breaks they need. We will provide updates on our website as work progresses.

In the meantime, people who are allocated Carer Support can continue to use it to enable them to have a break from caring for a person with a disability.


We have also been working to increase access to a number of facility-based respite houses. We are pleased that in the past few months we have been able to establish a new crisis respite service in Auckland and flexible respite support on Waiheke Island.

Provider stories/innovative practices

If you provide DSS funded services and you want others to know how your service makes a difference to people with a disability, please tell us about it.

DSS will be publishing a supplement in our December newsletter showcasing providers' innovative practices to mark the International Day of Persons with Disabilities on 3 December 2019.

Here's what we are looking for:

- A story or article in a word document of up to 300 words, saying what you are doing and how it makes a difference.
- We'd particularly like to hear about how you help people understand choices so they can make their own decisions (supporting a person's decision making).
- Send a high resolution photograph, if appropriate. 



- Confirm that you have formal permission from your organisation and from the person or people to use the story and photograph.
- Please get your submission to us by Monday, 23 September 2019, addressed to susan.fernandes@health.govt.nz

Articles for publication will be selected by a review team. We can't guarantee that we will include your article or story. Articles may be edited before they are published.

We will email a copy of the newsletter to you at the time of publication and will also post it on the Ministry of Health website.

Thank you and we look forward to hearing about the great work underway in the sector!

Contact Disability Support Services

Email: disability@health.govt.nz

Phone: 0800 DSD MOH (0800 373 664)

Web: www.health.govt.nz/disability

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