

Enabling Good Lives

Overview

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Origins and Political Meaning

EGL originated as a response to stakeholder calls for a “clean sheet” approach that would empower disabled people and their whānau. Politically, it marks a transition from paternalistic service delivery to one rooted in partnership, co-governance, and the social model of disability (Enabling Good Lives, n.d.; Ministry of Social Development, 2021).

Meaning for Disabled People

EGL prioritises disabled people’s control over their own lives. It fosters autonomy, choice, and citizenship, with personal budgets and tailored support. It focuses on improving outcomes in independence, employment, and social inclusion (Enabling Good Lives, n.d.; Enabling Good Lives Leadership Group, 2020).

Main Principles of EGL

The EGL approach is structured around eight key principles (Enabling Good Lives, n.d.):

- Self-determination: Disabled people have control over their lives
- Beginning early: Investment in disabled people and whānau starts early
- Person-centred: Support is tailored to individual strengths and aspirations
- Ordinary life outcomes: Expectations for disabled people match those of all citizens
- Mainstream first: Universal supports are accessed before specialist services
- Mana-enhancing: Interactions recognise and enhance people’s mana
- Easy to use: Supports and funding systems are simple and accessible
- Relationship building: Strong relationships among disabled people, whānau, and communities

Application in Enable NZ and Assessor Practice

Clinical Advisors focus on enabling assessors to uphold EGL principles in practice, improving the quality, safety, and equity of assessment decisions (Enable NZ Clinical Advisory Service Team, n.d.).

Cultural Responsiveness and Equity

EGL is committed to equity and cultural responsiveness, centring tāngata whaikaha Māori and Pacific disabled communities. It demands respect for diverse identities and prioritizes equitable outcomes by identifying and dismantling systemic barriers (Enabling Good Lives, n.d.; Whaikaha, 2024).

Reference List

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