



Summary of findings – Monitoring of My Experiences My Rights: Disability Supports and Services



**Report 4:
Enabling Good Lives
Published: November 2025**

Before you start



This is a long document.

It can be hard for some people to read a document this long.



Some things you can do to make it easier are:



- read it a few pages at a time
- set aside some quiet time to look at it
- have someone read it with you to support you to understand it.



What you will find in here

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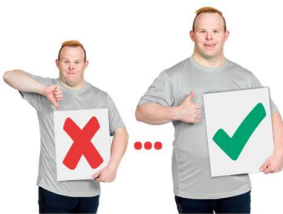
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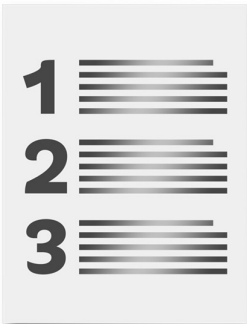


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About this Easy Read



This Easy Read is a **summary** of findings from **research** done by the **Donald Beasley Institute**.



A **summary** is:

- shorter than the main document
- tells you the main ideas.



Research is when a lot of information about something is put together to learn about it.



The **Donald Beasley Institute** is a place that researches things to do with disability.

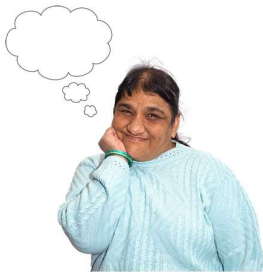


It is based in Dunedin in Aotearoa New Zealand.

In this Easy Read the Donald Beasley Institute will be called the **DBI**.



This is the fourth report of what the DBI found out from their research.



This report is about what people thought about **Enabling Good Lives**.



You can find information about Enabling Good Lives on the next few pages.

What is Enabling Good Lives?

Enabling Good Lives



Enabling Good Lives is a different way of thinking about disability support.

Enabling Good Lives is about disabled people having:

- choice and control in their lives
- the support they:
 - need
 - want
- a good life.

In this Easy Read Enabling Good Lives will be called **EGL** for short.



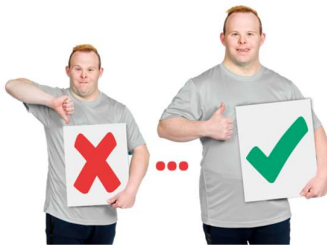
At the moment EGL is only in some parts of Aotearoa New Zealand.

Enabling Good Lives has 8 **principles**.



Here **principles** are ideas / beliefs that tell us:

- what we should do
- how we should do things.



The Enabling Good Lives principles tell us how to make **disability supports and services** work better for disabled people.



Here **disability supports and services** means all the ways the Government supports disabled people like paying for:

- equipment like a wheelchair
- homes for disabled people
- support workers.



The **Ministry of Social Development** is in charge of **Disability Support Services** now.



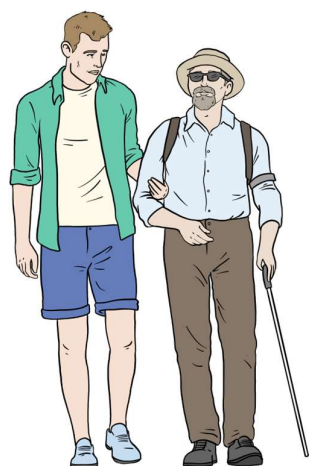
The **Ministry of Social**

Development is the part of the Government in charge of making sure all New Zealanders have enough money to live good lives by:

- paying benefits / money for people who do not have a job
- paying benefits / money so people can pay for things they need like seeing the doctor
- supporting people to find jobs.

The Ministry of Social Development is sometimes called **MSD** for short.

Disability Support Services



Disability Support Services is the part of MSD that pays for supports for disabled people like:

- equipment like:
 - tools that support people to talk to other people
 - a cane for a blind person
- Carer Support so a person who cares for a disabled person can take a break
- Individualised Funding so disabled people can:
 - decide what supports they need
 - pay for their supports.

In this Easy Read Disability Support Services will be called **DSS** for short.

Enabling Good Lives

EGL is a different way DSS can pay for disability support.



When the research was done by DBI

Whaikaha – Ministry of Disabled People was in charge of DSS.

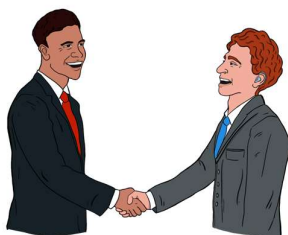


Whaikaha – Ministry of Disabled People works to make change for disabled people to make their lives better.



It makes things better for disabled people by working with:

- the Government
- the community
- businesses.



What was the research about?



The **Disabled People's Organisations Coalition** asked the DBI to start doing research in 2021.



The **Disabled People's Organisations Coalition** is a group of people from different disability organisations.

It is also called the **DPO Coalition**.



A **coalition** is a group of organisations that work together.



The DPO Coalition wanted to know how well the Aotearoa New Zealand Government was making the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** work in this country.



The **United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** is a law lots of countries have agreed to.

It is also called the **UNCRPD**.



It says what governments must do to make sure disabled people get the same **rights** as everyone else.



Rights are things everyone should:

- have
- be able to do.



Rights are things like:

- having a safe place to live
- being able to get married.



The DPO Coalition wanted to know if the rights of disabled people were protected when they tried to get disability supports and services in Aotearoa New Zealand.



Many big changes happened to disability supports and services while DBI was doing the research.



These changes included:

- Whaikaha – Ministry of Disabled People starting in 2022
- changes to DSS in March 2024
- changes to what Whaikaha – Ministry of Disabled People can do in August 2024
- the Government deciding not to take EGL to other parts of Aotearoa New Zealand at the moment.

This report talks about:

- what disabled people think about EGL
- what EGL is like for disabled people.



DBI did the research by:

- interviewing **disability sector leaders**
- doing **focus groups** with:
 - disabled people
 - their whānau / aiga / families.



Here the **disability sector** means all the organisations that:

- support disabled people
- stand up for the rights of disabled people.



Here **disability sector leaders** are the people who are part of creating:

- Enabling Good Lives
- Whaikaha – Ministry of Disabled People.



A **focus group** is a group of people who come together to talk about a thing they have in common.



In this Easy Read the people who took part in the research are called **participants**.

What the research found out



A way of life

Some disability sector leaders the researchers talked to had been part of starting EGL.

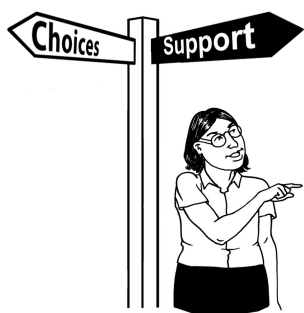


They said they hoped the EGL principles would become a **way of life** for:

- disabled people
- their whānau / aiga / families.



Here a **way of life** means being a normal part of everyday life.



Disability sector leaders also said they hoped the EGL principles would support organisations to make things better for disabled people.

Disabled-led and community-driven

Participants said it was important that:

- disabled people were the leaders of EGL
- EGL was created together by the:
 - **disability community**
 - **public sector.**





The **disability community** means:

- disabled people
- their whānau / aiga / families
- people who work in the disability sector
- anyone who wants to make life better for disabled people.



The **public sector** means all the organisations that are part of the Government like:

- ministries like MSD
- the Police
- schools.



Sometimes people have **negative beliefs** about disability.



Having **negative beliefs** means believing things about disability that are:

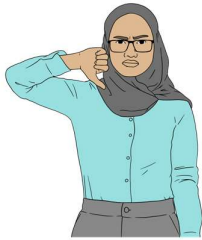
- wrong
- hurtful to disabled people.



Some examples of negative beliefs are believing that disabled people cannot:

- live on their own
- have a job.





Being led by disabled people means the EGL principles:

- say these negative beliefs are wrong
- make the disability community stronger.



The way EGL was created is an example of **nothing about us without us**.



Nothing about us without us means disabled people should be part of making choices about things that are important for disabled people.

Building relationships and community



Disability sector leaders said EGL could only work well if they had **strong relationships**.



Here **strong relationships** means:

- knowing disabled people well
- working together with disabled people.

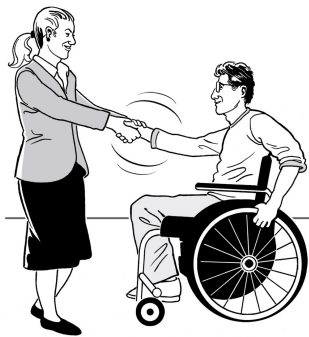


In some parts of Aotearoa New Zealand **community meetings** are part of EGL.



Community meetings are meetings for:

- disabled people
- their whānau / aiga / families.



At community meetings people:

- meet each other
- talk about the things they find hard
- work together.



Participants said they found these meetings:

- useful
- safe.



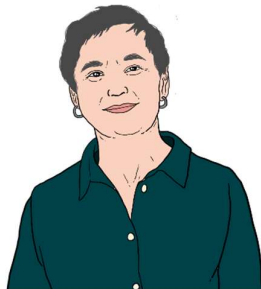


Participants said it was important to think about **intersectionality** when:

- building relationships
- choosing who gets to be a leader in EGL.



Intersectionality is a way of thinking about how different things about a person change how they experience the world.



For example if you are a disabled woman things might be different for you than they are for:

- a woman who is not disabled
- a disabled person who is not a woman.





Participants said sometimes it was hard to make sure everyone felt like they were part of EGL.



To build relationships participants said they:

- talked to **local boards**
- asked **public servants** to come to EGL meetings.



Local boards make choices about how to run things in their part of a town / city.



Public servants are people who work for a government ministry like MSD.



Participants did not like it when people from the Government ran meetings.

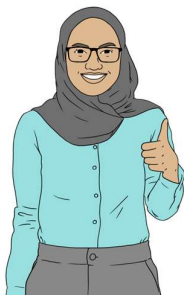


They said this made them feel like they could not be:

- themselves
- leaders.

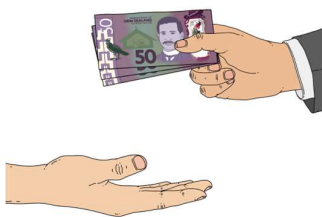


This made it harder to build communities.



Investment

Participants said Government **investment** had been good for EGL.



Here **investment** means spending money to make things better for people.



The investment meant:

- it was easier to build communities in the parts of Aotearoa New Zealand that use EGL
- disabled people could be leaders in EGL.



Participants want the Government to keep investing in EGL.

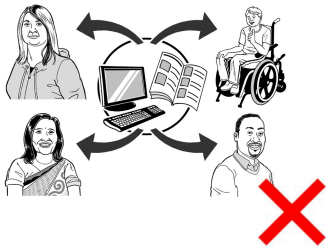


Information about EGL

Participants were worried that disabled people do not know about EGL.



In the parts of Aotearoa New Zealand that have EGL some disabled people do not know about it.



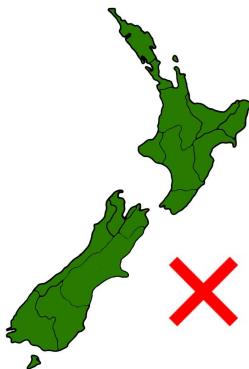
In the parts of Aotearoa New Zealand that do not have EGL many disabled people do not know about it.



Some participants said they knew about EGL even though it is not in their part of Aotearoa New Zealand.



These participants were looking forward to EGL coming to where they live.



At the moment the Government is not taking EGL to any new parts of Aotearoa New Zealand.



It is hard to know what will happen to EGL in the future.



EGL experiences

Participants said EGL made **needs assessment** better.



A **needs assessment** is how DSS decides what:

- support you need
- funding you can get from the Government.

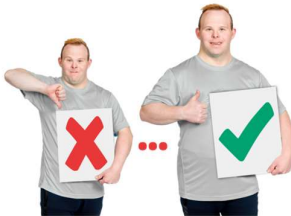


Participants said needs assessments used to focus on the things they could not do.



EGL:

- focuses on what disabled people want to do
- lets disabled people say what they need to live good lives
- lets the whānau / aiga / families of disabled people say what they need to live good lives.



Participants who were part of EGL said their lives were better.



EGL meant participants could choose what support they wanted to have.



Some participants had to ask before paying for some supports they wanted to use.

They did not like this.



Some participants thought that some **connectors** had too much say about what supports disabled people could use.



Connectors support people who are part of EGL.

Concerns about EGL



Here **concerns** means:

- worries participants had about EGL
- things participants thought did not work well.



Some participants worried they would not be able to get support from EGL in the future.



Some participants did not know if they would get the support they needed every day.



Some participants said organisations that support disabled people do not understand EGL.



Some participants said the EGL principles were not part of their lives every day.



Some participants said that disabled people have different needs.



They thought that the EGL principles did not always match the different needs people have.

Recommendations



Participants had **recommendations** about what should happen for EGL in the future.



Recommendations are ideas about how to make something work better.



Participants said the whole Government should use the EGL principles.



Participants said the Government should spend more money on EGL.



Participants said the Government needs to come up with a way of checking:



- if the disability community is using EGL
- how well EGL is working.



Disabled people should be in charge of these checks.



Participants said there should be **peer mentoring** to support disabled people to use EGL.



Here **peer mentoring** is when disabled people support other disabled people.

More information

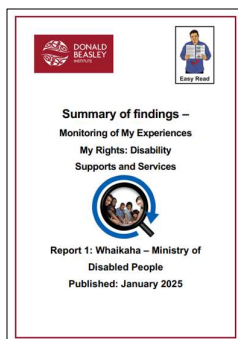


You can read the full report on the DBI **website** at:

<https://tinyurl.com/yn5sjpdk>



The full report is **not** in Easy Read.



You can read Part 1 of the report in Easy Read at:

<https://tinyurl.com/2z6er67s>



You can read Part 2 of the report in Easy Read at:

<https://tinyurl.com/2zb7v3xr>



You can read Part 3 of the report in Easy Read at:

<https://tinyurl.com/4k88we75>



For more information about what DBI does you can go to the DBI **website** at:

www.donaldbeasley.org.nz



You can contact DBI by **phone** on:

0800 878 839

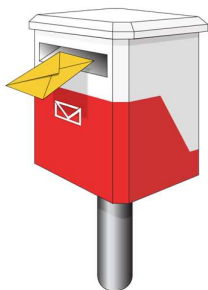


It does not cost money to phone this number.



You can **email** DBI at:

admin@donaldbeasley.org.nz



You can **post** a letter to DBI at:

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This information has been written by the Donald Beasley Institute.



It has been translated into Easy Read by the Make it Easy Kia Māmā Mai service of People First New Zealand Ngā Tāngata Tuatahi.



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