

Appendix Two – background on Disability System Transformation and key decisions to date

Work on Disability System Transformation has been ongoing for more than a decade led by MOH with support from other agencies, including MSD. Successive governments have made a number of key decisions to advance this work.

In 2011, an independent working group of disabled people, their families and whānau, advocates and allies developed the Enabling Good Lives (EGL) vision and principles (outlined in Appendix One) to be the foundation for a transformative change to disability support. The EGL vision and principles (collectively the EGL approach) are consistent with the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and the New Zealand Disability Strategy.

In September 2012, the Ministerial Committee on Disability Issues agreed to the EGL vision and principles as the basis for Disability System Transformation.

Since 2012, the main focus of Disability System Transformation has been to trial the EGL approach in a number of regions across New Zealand. Between 2013 and 2016, there was a demonstration in Christchurch for all school leavers with high or very high needs. A smaller scale initiative has continued since 2016. Since 2015, there has been a demonstration in Waikato for disabled people who opt into the new system.

In 2017, Cabinet directed MOH and MSD to work alongside the community to co-design a process for a nationwide transformation of the disability support system. It was agreed the first region to be transformed would be the MidCentral District Health Board region. Cabinet also agreed that the initial focus for Disability System Transformation should be people eligible for Disability Support Services (DSS) funded by MOH [SOC-17-MIN-0007 refers].

In 2018, Cabinet endorsed the EGL vision and principles for transforming DSS and agreed to the implementation of a prototype (Mana Whaikaha) in MidCentral which began operating in October 2018. Cabinet also agreed to initiate the Machinery of Government Review to identify options, including possible structural changes, for involving disabled people and whānau in the governance of the disability system [SWC-18-MIN-0029 refers].