

System Transformation - Principles for Monitoring, Evaluation, Analysis and Learning

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**Introduction**

Monitoring and evaluation is a critical component of any system transformation. Current Disability Supports and Services (DSS) monitoring and evaluation practices and approaches are currently not geared to provide insight at the system level. There is an opportunity to strategically design a holistic Monitoring, Evaluation, Analysis and Learning (MEAL) system which can itself act as a lever to inform how the system is transformed.

Purpose

The following draft principles have been developed to guide how the future MEAL system should be constructed, as well as how individual monitoring and evaluation activities should be designed, undertaken, and used. MEAL, when used wisely, provides learning to inform and improve future practices. In this way, MEAL can act as a lever for system transformation. Additionally, MEAL is useful as an accountability mechanism, to provide assurance that government is fulfilling its obligations to disabled people as rightsholders.

The principles are statements about what good monitoring and evaluation looks like in an Enabling Good Lives (EGL) based disability system. The principles may provide guidance and expectations to everyone involved in MEAL including tāngata whaikaha Māori, disabled people and whānau. They are applicable to both the system transformation programme as well as the wider work of the Disability Directorate. The principles are aspirational in that they mark a significant shift from the current state.

How the principles have been developed

The principles have been developed using the EGL principles as the anchor, utilising other sources of what good practice for MEAL looks like in the Aotearoa New Zealand context, including:

* Superu and ANZEA ‘Evaluation Standard for Aotearoa New Zealand’
* SAMS ‘Evaluation in a New Era’.

This work also drew on:

* MoH Disability Directorate Strategy 2020-2025
* Whāia Te Ao Marama 2018-2022
* Key insights from a MoH Theory of Change workshop
* International literature on best practice.

We acknowledge that co-design is still to be done for this work, so these principles are a first offering into that process.

The principles recognise Te Tiriti o Waitangi (Te Tiriti) as the founding document of Aotearoa New Zealand, the articles of which hold the Crown accountable for rights and obligations.

The principles are cross-referenced to the EGL principles.

## Te Tiriti as the korowai

Te Tiriti is put into practice through recognising the rights and interests of tāngata me whānau whaikaha Māori and by valuing mātauranga Māori through the use of kaupapa Māori evaluation methods and evaluators.

* **EGL principles:** Self determination

## Be in service of equity

Monitoring and evaluation aim to provide system level insights to advance progress towards equitable outcomes for all disabled people and whānau with a focus on Māori and Pacific peoples.

* **EGL principles:** Ordinary life outcomes

## Tāngata whaikaha, disabled people and whānau, as rightsholders, are partners in the development and implementation of monitoring and evaluation

Tāngata whaikaha, disabled people and whānau decide how the monitoring and evaluation system works for them.

* **EGL principles:** Self determination

## Take a strengths-based approach

Monitoring and evaluation are focused on the strengths of tāngata whaikaha, disabled people and whānau rather than having a deficit focus.

* **EGL principles:** Mana enhancing

**Have an outcomes focus**

Monitoring and evaluation are focused on the outcomes for tāngata whaikaha, disabled people and whānau rather than having an output focus.

* **EGL principles:** Ordinary life outcomes

## **No one size fits all approach to measuring change**

Monitoring and evaluation approaches and methodologies are designed to be inclusive of the diverse experiences of tāngata whaikaha, disabled people and whānau.

* **EGL principles:** Person centred, relationship building

## Build honest, respectful, and reciprocal relationships

Monitoring and evaluative activities are conducted by tāngata whaikaha, disabled people and people trusted by the community with a focus on building and maintaining these relationships.

* **EGL principles:** Relationship building

## **Uphold and enhance the dignity of all involved**

Monitoring and evaluation activities ensure that privacy, confidentiality and informed consent are upheld.

* **EGL principles:** Mana enhancing

## **Ensure that methods are robust and appropriate**

All elements of the evaluation and monitoring are carried out systematically and appropriately, at local, regional, and national levels, so that robust evidence and insights can be created.

## Ensure appropriate safeguarding, and health and safety standards are being met

Monitoring and evaluative activities meet the appropriate ethical guidelines and ensure the privacy, health and safety of tāngata whaikaha, disabled people and whānau. There are clear procedures for how to proceed if adverse events are disclosed.

## **Create a trusted data system**

Tāngata whaikaha Māori and disabled people are the owners of their data and are comfortable with how their data is collected, used and stored. Data is easily accessible so that tāngata whaikaha, disabled people and whānau can easily access information and data so that they can make the best decisions.

* **EGL principles:**  Relationship building, self determination, easy to use

## **System improvement is the goal for all data collection**

Intrusion into the lives of tāngata whaikaha Māori, disabled people and whānau will be minimised by only collecting data that will be used to improve the disability system.

* **EGL principles:** Person centred, mana enhancing

**Build on what has already been learnt**

Respect the work that has already happened and learn from it, both in relation to the wider system transformation and the MEAL system itself.

* **EGL principles:** Easy to use

Sources

* Data Future Partnerships (2021) Trusted Data
* EGL principles
* Key insights from MoH Theory of Change workshop 17 May 2021,
* Ministry of Health (2018) Whāia Te Ao Mārama 2018 to 2022: The Māori Disability Action Plan
* Ministry of Health (2021) Disability Directorate Strategy 2020-2025
* Equitable Evaluation Initiative (2017) Equitable Evaluation Framing Paper
* SAMS (2010) A framework for evaluation of services – an outcomes focus
* SAMS (2013) Evaluation in a new era
* Superu and Aotearoa New Zealand Evaluation Association (2015) Evaluation standards for Aotearoa New Zealand