

# Enhanced Individualised Funding

Enhanced Individualised Funding (EIF) gives disabled people and their families/whanau choice and flexibility to do more with their budget. It's the no-fuss way to greater personal freedom.

Individualised Funding is a payment mechanism to enable disabled people and their families to directly manage Ministry of Health funded disability supports. Disabled people can choose how, when and by who their disability supports are provided.

EIF takes this idea of personalised budgets one step further, by allocating funding so a disabled person can choose to spend it on disability supports that help them achieve their goals rather than have to spend it on a specific service.

With EIF you are in control of your own business. I can allow who I want into the house, it's a good place to be – just really good.

EIF is currently only available in the Western and Eastern Bay of Plenty.

## How does EIF work?

You are allocated an amount of funding, or a budget, you can then make your own decision about what disability supports to buy with it.

The philosophy of EIF is to fund support that helps you reach your goals. This support may look different to what has traditionally been available through contracted services. It could, for example, allow you to set your own timetable, enjoy a better social life and generally take charge of the life you want to lead.

## Can I get EIF?

If you receive Disability Support Services and live in the Eastern or Western Bay of Plenty, it could be an option for you.

Talk to SupportNet, your Needs Assessment and Service Coordination organisation (NASC) to see if EIF is an option for you.

putting YOU in charge

## How do I access EIF?

It's easy to do.

1. Talk to SupportNet to find out if this is an option for you.
2. If it is, talk to your family and people such as your Local Area Coordinator about the lifestyle you want and goals you have. Develop and then agree on a plan and how it will work.
3. Confirm these goals with the NASC and they will refer you to an EIF host organisation.

## There are a few rules!

You can only spend EIF on:

- Things that are disability supports.
- Things that help you reach your goals.

You can't spend it on:

- Things that are provided for by other government agencies such as rent or education.
- Goods, services and/or facilities that the person would reasonably be expected to provide for from their own money if they did not have a disability such as:
  - Bills
  - Food, groceries and other household goods
  - Mortgage payments, rent or rental assistance
  - House and contents insurance, vehicle and life insurance
  - Plane, train, bus or taxi fares
  - Repayment of personal debts
  - Donations to charitable or church organisations.

Talk to SupportNet to find out more about what you can spend your money on.

“The best part about being on EIF is the sense of freedom, the sense of control. Now with EIF we can get the support we need when we need it, and that's really important.”