



**Who decides ‘when, how and by whom’:
lessons from Manawanui’s experience as
the IF Pioneer in New Zealand**

Structure of Presentation

1. Introduction to Manawanui
2. Context setting – problem definition
3. IF as one powerful solution – not ‘the’ solution
4. Conclusion

Who are we?

- The original Ministry of Health funded IF provider
- Delivered NZ IF pilot project 2005 – 2009
- Proud to deliver IF services nationally
- A 100% provider of IF Services alone
- A charitable limited liability company

- Business support team of 6 Auckland-based people
- Area representatives x 9

Our Vision

A world where disabled people have absolute authority and autonomy over their disability-related support.

Objective 7.2 of the New Zealand Disability Strategy

Ensure that government agencies, publically funded services and publically accountable bodies co-operate to ensure that the disabled person is at the centre of service delivery” (p.21, 2001).

General challenge for DSS

- “Funding ‘buckets’ are seen to be too rigidly tied to specific purposes and contracting too focused on the service provided rather than meeting genuine needs and producing improved services”
- “widespread concern about the lack of training, low levels of pay, and relatively high turnover of those seeking work in the sector” (p.48, Ministerial Review Group, 2009).

The Vote-Health funded workforce

“Despite numerous and both uniformly and consistently critical health workforce reports, action and implementation to date has not resulted in any significant reform” (p.8, Annex 3, Ministerial Review Group, 2009).

Why Individualised Funding?

- A funding method to provide people or families access to disability support funding
- A means of redefining personal control
- A means to create flexible personal supports
- A means to improve outcomes
- A cost effective method of allocating resources

The power of holding the purse

“budgets hand control to service users and give them the flexibility to tailor care to meet their specific needs.

Flexibility of this kind greatly improves satisfaction and outcomes for individual budget holders” (Alakeson, 2008, BMJ)

Person-centred control through IF

- Hiring and firing
- Negotiating rates of pay
- Personal planning
- Perfect agency (information, decisions and delegations)
- Facilitated peer support engagement
- Independent access to professional advice
- A 'stewardship' model delivering effective administration support
- Personal freedoms with accountability
- Opportunity to take risks (interpersonal and financial)

If not IF – why not!

- Assessed inability to manage employees
- Assessed inability to manage IF administration
- Assessed inability to arrange adequate back-up supports

These are not show stoppers if a nominated agent can be engaged.

Competencies / Enablers

- Planning and communication
- Budget management and record keeping
- Recruitment and line management
- Negotiation and problem solving
- Employer obligations (e.g. health and safety, training, payroll, PAYE, Kiwisaver)

Self-reported benefits of using IF

- ‘Children happier, more content, less ‘tantrums’
- ‘Better relationships ‘
- ‘Able to get out more – go on holiday’
- ‘Not depressed any more’
- ‘Marked health improvements, fitness, flexibility’
- ‘Greater satisfaction, privacy, dignity’
- ‘Peace of mind, freedom, less formality’

Why are we excited?

- Our vision is becoming a reality
- Consumer support is phenomenal
- A tipping point has been reached so there is no turning back now!

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Questions