1

00:00:03,200 --> 00:00:07,440

We're not just wanting a typical disability life for him.

2

00:00:07,440 --> 00:00:10,920

We're wanting an ordinary life for Mykal.

3

00:00:10,920 --> 00:00:12,480

I really believe in vision.

4

00:00:12,480 --> 00:00:16,200

Deciding what it is that you're wanting to go after and then

5

00:00:16,200 --> 00:00:18,160

figuring out how we’re going to get there.

6

00:00:19,160 --> 00:00:21,720

My name is Mykal,

7

00:00:21,720 --> 00:00:24,160

I’m 19

8

00:00:24,160 --> 00:00:26,480

and I live in Tauranga.

9

00:00:27,920 --> 00:00:29,600

Mykal has cerebral palsy.

10

00:00:29,600 --> 00:00:34,120

So it was a brain injury that occurred before he was born.

11

00:00:34,120 --> 00:00:37,120

You know, the next few years were really, really tough as

12

00:00:37,120 --> 00:00:39,120

we were navigating.

13

00:00:39,120 --> 00:00:40,360

You know, there's so many questions.

14

00:00:40,360 --> 00:00:42,600

You don't know what Mykal will and won't

15

00:00:42,600 --> 00:00:43,680

be able to do.

16

00:00:43,680 --> 00:00:47,680

You don't know, you know, what life's going to look like.

17

00:00:47,680 --> 00:00:51,120

Chris and I, we both agree that a good life for Mykal is

18

00:00:51,120 --> 00:00:52,160

what we want.

19

00:00:52,160 --> 00:00:54,400

Something inside me was like, well, if my daughter

20

00:00:54,400 --> 00:00:57,160

can do it and if his classmates can do it, then why can't

21

00:00:57,160 --> 00:00:58,280

Mykal do it?

22

00:00:58,280 --> 00:01:00,840

We just need to think about it a little bit differently.

23

00:01:01,640 --> 00:01:02,960

Open.

24

00:01:06,880 --> 00:01:09,640

Hey Google turn lights on.

25

00:01:11,080 --> 00:01:15,120

We wanted him to do his learning and do his

26

00:01:15,120 --> 00:01:18,120

schooling with his peers and wanted him to build

27

00:01:18,120 --> 00:01:22,280

relationships and experience the same things as other

28

00:01:22,280 --> 00:01:23,400

kids his age.

29

00:01:23,400 --> 00:01:28,200

And we've had to really fight that the whole way through Mykal's

30

00:01:28,200 --> 00:01:31,760

schooling, because if we didn't, the default would be that he

31

00:01:31,760 --> 00:01:33,800

would be kept separate.

32

00:01:33,800 --> 00:01:35,680

And that's just not acceptable to us.

33

00:01:36,680 --> 00:01:45,680

They raised me like a normal kid because

34

00:01:45,680 --> 00:01:48,120

that’s who I am.

35

00:01:48,120 --> 00:01:57,120

I do not like to be treated like someone who is different.

36

00:01:58,560 --> 00:02:02,600

So we first did this plan around about two or three years ago.

37

00:02:02,600 --> 00:02:06,240

It talks about who Mykal is and then his vision for the future,

38

00:02:06,240 --> 00:02:09,440

and that's really guided us a lot over the years.

39

00:02:09,440 --> 00:02:12,440

For me, the path planning model works

40

00:02:12,440 --> 00:02:13,880

really, really well.

41

00:02:13,880 --> 00:02:15,440

It’s up on Mykal’s wall.

42

00:02:15,440 --> 00:02:17,440

All of his support workers get to see it.

43

00:02:17,440 --> 00:02:18,960

It's Mykal's good life.

44

00:02:18,960 --> 00:02:21,400

That's what you're here to provide for Mykal

45

00:02:21,400 --> 00:02:23,320

or help us work towards.

46

00:02:23,320 --> 00:02:25,880

You'll be living in Tauranga and you're owning the home you’re

47

00:02:25,880 --> 00:02:27,080

flatting in.

48

00:02:27,080 --> 00:02:28,680

The steps of independence aye.

49

00:02:28,680 --> 00:02:29,920

Yeah. Yeah.

50

00:02:31,240 --> 00:02:34,280

The last couple of years, recruitment has been really tough.

51

00:02:34,280 --> 00:02:37,280

We got to a point where actually, I just can't do

52

00:02:37,280 --> 00:02:38,560

this anymore.

53

00:02:38,560 --> 00:02:41,320

I can't keep recruiting.

54

00:02:41,320 --> 00:02:44,240

We've got to provide supports for Mykal.

55

00:02:46,040 --> 00:02:51,160

I had met or engaged with SILC, and what I like about them is that

56

00:02:51,160 --> 00:02:52,960

they are willing to engage in the conversation.

57

00:02:52,960 --> 00:02:57,280

They're willing to hear what it is that we want.

58

00:02:57,280 --> 00:03:00,040

I’m thinking of getting all of Mykal's team together too.

59

00:03:00,040 --> 00:03:02,760

So maybe SILC support workers and our support workers

60

00:03:02,760 --> 00:03:05,920

to have a bit of a kōrero and actually be on the same

61

00:03:05,920 --> 00:03:08,920

page and that we can be thinking together about

62

00:03:08,920 --> 00:03:11,680

what needs to change and happen as Mykal's needs

63

00:03:11,680 --> 00:03:12,560

are changing.

64

00:03:13,840 --> 00:03:16,840

Mykal, Nicky and Chris hold a very strong

65

00:03:16,840 --> 00:03:18,280

and clear vision.

66

00:03:18,280 --> 00:03:23,160

They get a chance to decide what's important to them,

67

00:03:23,160 --> 00:03:25,320

what they want to use the money for.

68

00:03:25,320 --> 00:03:30,240

And it leaves us all open, including providers, open to being able

69

00:03:30,240 --> 00:03:33,240

to create solutions as opposed to working from a

70

00:03:33,240 --> 00:03:35,280

set menu of solutions.

71

00:03:37,520 --> 00:03:39,840

Isn't the kitchen looking great?

72

00:03:39,840 --> 00:03:41,360

Yes it is.

73

00:03:42,360 --> 00:03:44,400

You can see how we've finished off the bathroom.

74

00:03:44,400 --> 00:03:45,600

How about you head in there?

75

00:03:45,600 --> 00:03:47,160

It's very accessible.

76

00:03:47,160 --> 00:03:48,520

Wow.

77

00:03:49,840 --> 00:03:52,840

It was identified that Mykal did want to live separately.

78

00:03:52,840 --> 00:03:54,840

Mykal wanted to live in a flat.

79

00:03:54,840 --> 00:03:58,320

So we're going to have to look at the first step being living more

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00:03:58,320 --> 00:04:04,640

separate within the house with us and to create a self-contained

81

00:04:04,640 --> 00:04:06,600

accessible studio.

82

00:04:06,600 --> 00:04:10,360

That would allow a separate entrance for support workers,

83

00:04:10,360 --> 00:04:13,360

so Chris and I could finally have our home back.

84

00:04:14,160 --> 00:04:24,600

I am kind of excited and afraid as well because it’s a

85

00:04:24,600 --> 00:04:30,360

big step in my independence.

86

00:04:31,480 --> 00:04:36,920

The concept of the circle of support was just to bring people in to

87

00:04:36,920 --> 00:04:39,480

know something was going on.

88

00:04:39,480 --> 00:04:44,200

Getting those objective eyes and ears, people who care about us,

89

00:04:44,200 --> 00:04:48,600

people who come from a whole diverse range of backgrounds to

90

00:04:48,600 --> 00:04:53,440

try and help support us and to, you know, problem solve some of

91

00:04:53,440 --> 00:04:54,840

the issues.

92

00:04:55,320 --> 00:04:59,440

It's just been a real honour to be invited into such a vulnerable

93

00:04:59,440 --> 00:05:02,040

place and all bring our different strengths in to

94

00:05:02,040 --> 00:05:03,400

being able to help.

95

00:05:03,400 --> 00:05:07,400

It's cool to be able to be a part of something that directly

96

00:05:07,400 --> 00:05:10,400

affects someone's life and, you know, seeing what they go

97

00:05:10,400 --> 00:05:12,160

through and then trying to help with some change

98

00:05:12,160 --> 00:05:12,960

around that.

99

00:05:14,200 --> 00:05:17,200

Mykal wants to develop games for people

100

00:05:17,200 --> 00:05:20,320

of all abilities, and so he's going into

101

00:05:20,320 --> 00:05:21,520

software development.

102

00:05:21,520 --> 00:05:25,520

So he's finishing with school this year, and next year he's going to

103

00:05:25,520 --> 00:05:28,520

be going to Toi Ohomai, the local polytechnic.

104

00:05:29,440 --> 00:05:37,720

I want to make that dream of actually completing a

105

00:05:37,720 --> 00:05:41,200

video game for other people.

106

00:05:42,560 --> 00:05:45,560

Our hopes for Mykal is that he gets

107

00:05:45,560 --> 00:05:46,840

what he hopes.

108

00:05:46,840 --> 00:05:51,560

We are just in there recognizing his skills, recognizing his abilities,

109

00:05:51,560 --> 00:05:53,600

and then creating the pathways for him.

110

00:05:53,600 --> 00:05:57,840

So moving out the roadblocks so that he can then go and get the

111

00:05:57,840 --> 00:05:59,040

life that he wants to.

112

00:05:59,920 --> 00:06:02,760

I think every parent has hopes and dreams

113

00:06:02,760 --> 00:06:03,840

for their kids.

114

00:06:03,840 --> 00:06:07,360

We just have to remove a lot more of the barriers for Mykal

115

00:06:07,360 --> 00:06:09,040

to live his best life.