

## Working in Partnership Towards the Reunification of Children to their Birth Families

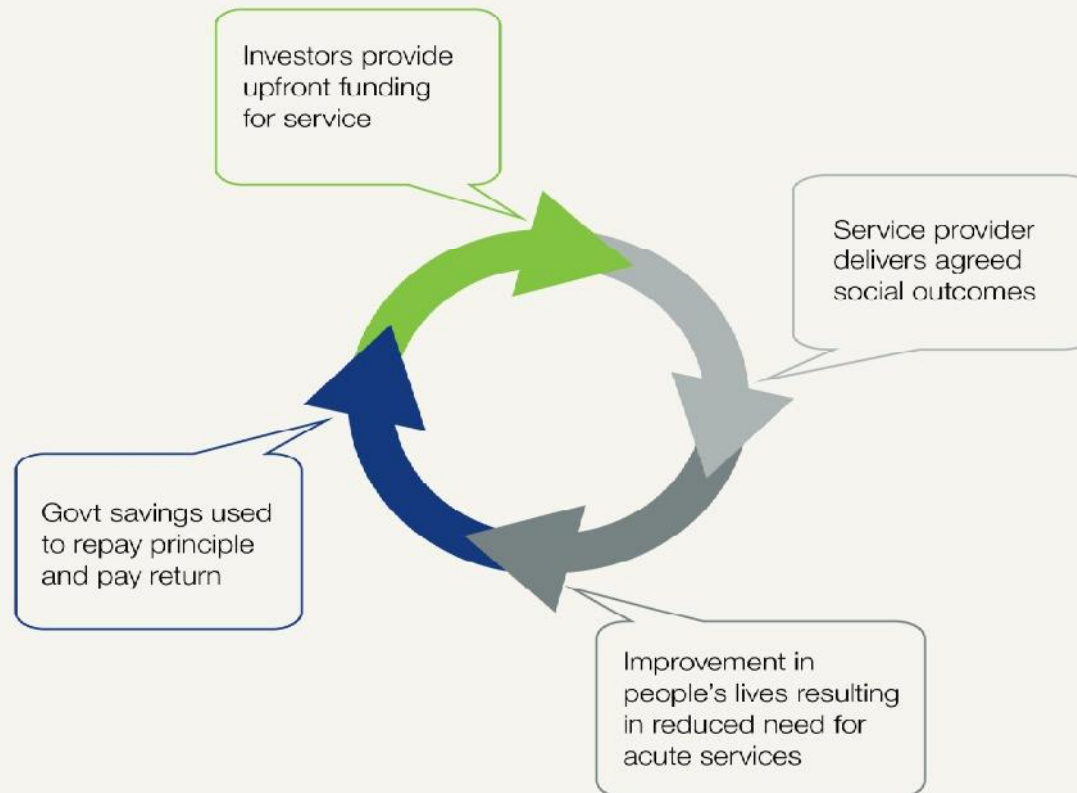


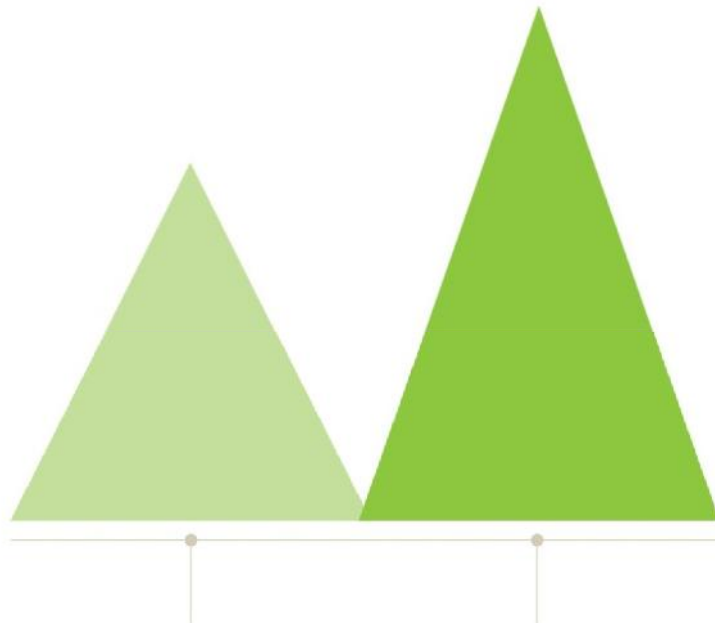
## What is Newpin?

- Started in the UK and brought to Australia in 1998
- Intensive centre based , group work program for parents seeking the reunification of their children from care
- Underpinned by attachment theory and trauma informed practice
- Requires a commitment of two days a week for around eighteen months
- It's all about relationships.....



## What is a Social Benefit Bond (SBB)?





9,273

18,950

**Children & young people in OOHC risen from 9,273 as at 30 June 2002 to 18,950 as at 30 June 2014**



**More than 50% (over \$800 million) of Community Services investment in services is done via NGOs**



## Building Relationships



- **Joint Development Stage**
- **Variety of Skills**
- **Divergent Group**
- **Operationalizing the SBB**

## Ethical Questions

- **Cash for kids**
- **Avoiding cherry picking**
- **Reaching targets**
- **Reporting outcomes**
- **Revisiting**



## Challenges within the Partnership

- **Changing staff members' perceptions within Newpin and FACS**
- **Clarifying roles**







## **Newpin's input to FACS**

- **Presentations by Newpin parents to managers' meetings**
- **Hot desk within local area offices**
- **Newpin parent focus group – developing new care plans**
- **Participating in reunification training for caseworkers**



## **FACS' input to Newpin**

- **Legal training on the Child protection legislation**
- **Briefing on new Safe Home for Life Reforms**
- **Writing good reports and case notes**
- **Participating in FACS' group supervision**



## Key messages



- **Important to have regular and open communication**
- **Be open to feedback**
- **Trust that colleagues also have the best interest of the child and their family at heart**



## It's all about relationships .....

**“Fire can warm or consume,  
water can quench or drown,  
wind can caress or cut.**

**And so it is with human  
relationships;  
we can both create and  
destroy,  
nurture and terrorize,  
traumatize and heal each  
other”**

**Bruce Perry  
Senior Fellow of The Child Trauma  
Academy**





## Contact Details

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