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)?

- Investors provide upfront funding for service
- Service provider delivers agreed social outcomes
- Improvement in people's lives resulting in reduced need for acute services
- Govt savings used to repay principle and pay return
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
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