



# Uniting Newpin

Supporting restoration  
of children to their parents

**Uniting**

# Newpin

**Newpin is a therapeutic restoration program that supports and empowers families to break the cycle of child neglect and abuse and to provide safe, nurturing environments for children.**

Newpin specialises in engaging parents whose children are in the NSW foster/kinship care system, where a restoration plan is already in place or may become viable. Parents, children and staff work together towards restoration under the Newpin core values of Support, Equality, Empathy, Respect and Self-determination.

Many parents who attend Newpin have experienced significant abuse and trauma in their childhoods. The aim of the program is to provide parents with the opportunity to address their own emotional issues, to improve bonding with their children and to develop positive parenting skills.

Parents attend Newpin for up to nine months prior to restoration and then for a further nine months post restoration.

The post restoration period in Newpin is critical to facilitating the smooth transition of children from care. The commitment from families includes regular attendance at the Newpin centre and participation in therapeutic and educational parenting groups. In addition, parents are assisted as they integrate the knowledge and skills developed at Newpin into their home environment.

# The Newpin Process

**Newpin works in close partnership with the Department of Family and Community Services (FACS) and non-government organisations (NGOs) to ensure the best outcomes for families seeking restoration of their children from foster care.**

Newpin's assessment of a parent's capacity to meet the physical, emotional and developmental needs of their children is a process that takes place throughout the eighteen months (on average) that a family spends attending the program. Newpin uses the North Carolina Family Assessment Scale (NCFAS) to set goals and to review the progress of parents across twelve domains.

An essential part of the Newpin program is the quality time spent with a parent and their child together. This allows Newpin staff to observe parent and child interactions, to work with the parent to build healthy attachments and to develop the parent's understanding of the changing and often complex needs of their children over time. Consequently, it is imperative that

children who are in foster care have regular contact with their parent at the Newpin centre.

For children under school age, contact takes place at the Newpin centre between 12.00pm and 2.00pm, a minimum of once a week, while primary school aged children attend Newpin between 3pm and 5pm, one afternoon per week.

The Newpin program combines both group and individual work within the Newpin centres and at home. The key components are outlined in the following pages.

# Core elements of the Newpin process

## Referral

The parent is referred to Newpin by a FACS Caseworker, NGO Caseworker or external service provider working with the family.

## Initial Visit

The initial visit is conducted in the family home by a Newpin staff member. The program is discussed with the parent/s and staff then in conjunction with the parent/s, ascertain if the family will benefit from Newpin.

## Centre Visit

Newpin arranges for the primary parent/s to attend the Newpin Centre to introduce them to the program. After an initial visit, the family will attend the centre on a minimum of 2 days a week for up to 18 months.

## Case Meeting

Newpin staff will attend a meeting with FACS, the parent/s and other relevant parties to discuss the proposed restoration plan.

### • Assessments and Reviews

NCFAS is completed when a parent first joins Newpin and then at 6 monthly intervals or as required.

### • Contact Visits

Regular contact visits take place in the Newpin centre between children in foster care and their parents.

### • Personal Development Program (PDP)

The parent joins the weekly PDP once they start the program. While parents are attending group sessions their children are supervised in the therapeutic family room.

### • Therapeutic Support Group (TSG)

The parent joins a weekly TSG with other parents in the program.

### • Home Visits

Home visits to both parents (where applicable) are carried out during completion of each NCFAS, as well as prior and post restoration of each child and prior to case closure.

### • Partners' Parenting Groups

Once the primary parent has attached to the program, their partner joins a PDP and TSG one evening a week.

### • Therapeutic Play

Formal and informal time is spent with parents and children, promoting healthy attachments through therapeutic play.

## Program Completion

Six months prior to expected completion of the program, Newpin staff work with the family to develop a transition plan. Information regarding readiness to leave is gathered via assessments, observations and participation in the PDPs and TSG.

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## Eligibility Criteria

There are three Centres operating in Western Sydney, at St Marys, Doonside and Bidwill. There are also Centres located at Ingleburn in South West Sydney, Port Kembla in the Illawarra/Shoalhaven, Wyong on the Central Coast, Lambton in the Hunter and Hurstville in South East Sydney.

In addition, each centre runs programs for partners of the primary carers, ensuring that where there are two caregivers, both parents are engaged with the Newpin program and are learning new parenting skills at the same time.

To refer a child they must under the age of 6 with a case plan goal for restoration. They can have additional siblings over the age of 6 who are also part of the restoration plan.

## Information for Non-Government Organisations

Newpin staff work closely with non-government organisations (NGOs) that have the children of Newpin families placed in their foster/kinship care programs.

Contact visits, as per the case plan, are supported by Newpin staff in a comfortable and safe environment, providing important opportunities for the development of healthy attachments. These visits allow the mothers and fathers to put into practise new parenting strategies whilst their children also enjoy the regular routines and therapeutic play at the centre.

It is the responsibility of the NGO, which has case management for the child, to organise the child's transport to and from contact at the Newpin centre. This will be discussed at initial and subsequent case conferences which will be facilitated by the relevant Community Services Centre.

All potential restoration referrals should be discussed with the Quality and Intake Coordinator for eligibility.

# Newpin Centres

## **Newpin St Marys**

6 Villiers Close,  
St Marys NSW 2760  
T: (02) 9673 1522

## **Newpin Doonside**

57-59 Cygnus Close,  
Doonside NSW 2767  
T: (02) 9671 7016

## **Newpin Bidwill**

30 Myrtus Crescent,  
Bidwill NSW 2770  
T: (02) 9835 1644

## **Newpin Wyong**

62 Alison Road,  
Wyong NSW 2259  
T: (02) 4350 9050

## **Newpin Ingleburn**

92-94 Oxford Road,  
Ingleburn NSW 2565  
T: (02) 9268 3841

## **Newpin Newcastle**

22 Belford Rd,  
Lambton NSW 2299  
T: 02 40378400

## **Newpin Port Kembla**

11 Military Rd,  
Port Kembla NSW 2505  
T: 02 4258 2500

## **Newpin Hurstville**

18 The Avenue  
Hurstville NSW 2220  
T: 02 9777 9900

## **Quality and Intake Coordinator**

T: (02) 9768 6950

**Learn more.**  
[newpin.org.au](http://newpin.org.au)  
[uniting.org](http://uniting.org)



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*Courage to change together*

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