

etariat Aboriginal Child,



What is the Aboriginal Child, Family & Community Care State Secretariat?

- We are known as AbSec and operate as a NSW non-government Peak Aboriginal organisation providing both the government, and non-government sectors, Child Protection and OOHC policy advice.
- Primarily funded Family and Community Services - Community Services



AbSec's Objectives

- To assist Aboriginal communities in the goal to achieve **self-determination** and a safe, secure and caring environment for our children and young people
- To assist Aboriginal organisations to provide quality services for Aboriginal children and their families, extended families and communities
- To provide support, information and networking opportunities for Aboriginal agencies providing care and protection services for children and young people
- To advise government and key departments and agencies on Aboriginal child and family issues
- To advocate on issues of concern to Aboriginal child and family agencies
- To identify training needs for carers, staff and management and to access or arrange relevant and appropriate training
- To advance and promote the well-being of children in care



AbSec Membership

Aboriginal OOHc Service Providers

Biripi Aboriginal Medical Corporation (G.L.M.A.C.S) - Taree:

Burrin Dalai Out of Home Care & Family Support Service - Kempsey:

Hunter Aboriginal Children's Services - Maitland/Newcastle:

Link-Up (NSW) Aboriginal Corporation - Metro West:

Ngunya Jarjum Aboriginal Child & Family Network Casino:

South Coast Medical Service Aboriginal Corporation Nowra:

Kari Resources - Metro South West:

AbSec also has various other classes of voting and non voting members – Including other Aboriginal Child and Family Services, Carers, academics and even non Aboriginal NGOs.

AbSec also has two capacity building programs underway at the moment Including a partnership to work with ACWA member agencies To develop true and meaningful partnerships in the OOHc sector.



History Lesson 1788

- **Phillip's Instructions from King George III re Aborigines**
Apart from Letters Patent, and other documents there were also George III's Instructions (to Governor Phillip) which covered numerous areas including relationships with the **a**boriginal people - which were quite explicit.



- " You are to endeavour by every possible means to open an **intercourse with the natives**, and to **conciliate their affections**, enjoining all our subjects to live in amity and kindness with them. And if any of our subjects shall wantonly destroy them or give them any unnecessary interruption in the exercise of **their several occupations** it is our will and pleasure that you do cause such offenders to be brought to punishment according to the degrees of the offence. You will endeavour to procure an account of numbers inhabiting the neighbourhood of the intended settlement, and report your opinion to one of our Secretaries of State in what manner our **intercourse with these people** may be turned to **the advantage of this colony.**"



Partnership

- There are 3 types of partnerships with Aboriginal People and communities.
- The Mission Model
- The Warm and Fuzzy Model
- The True partnership model

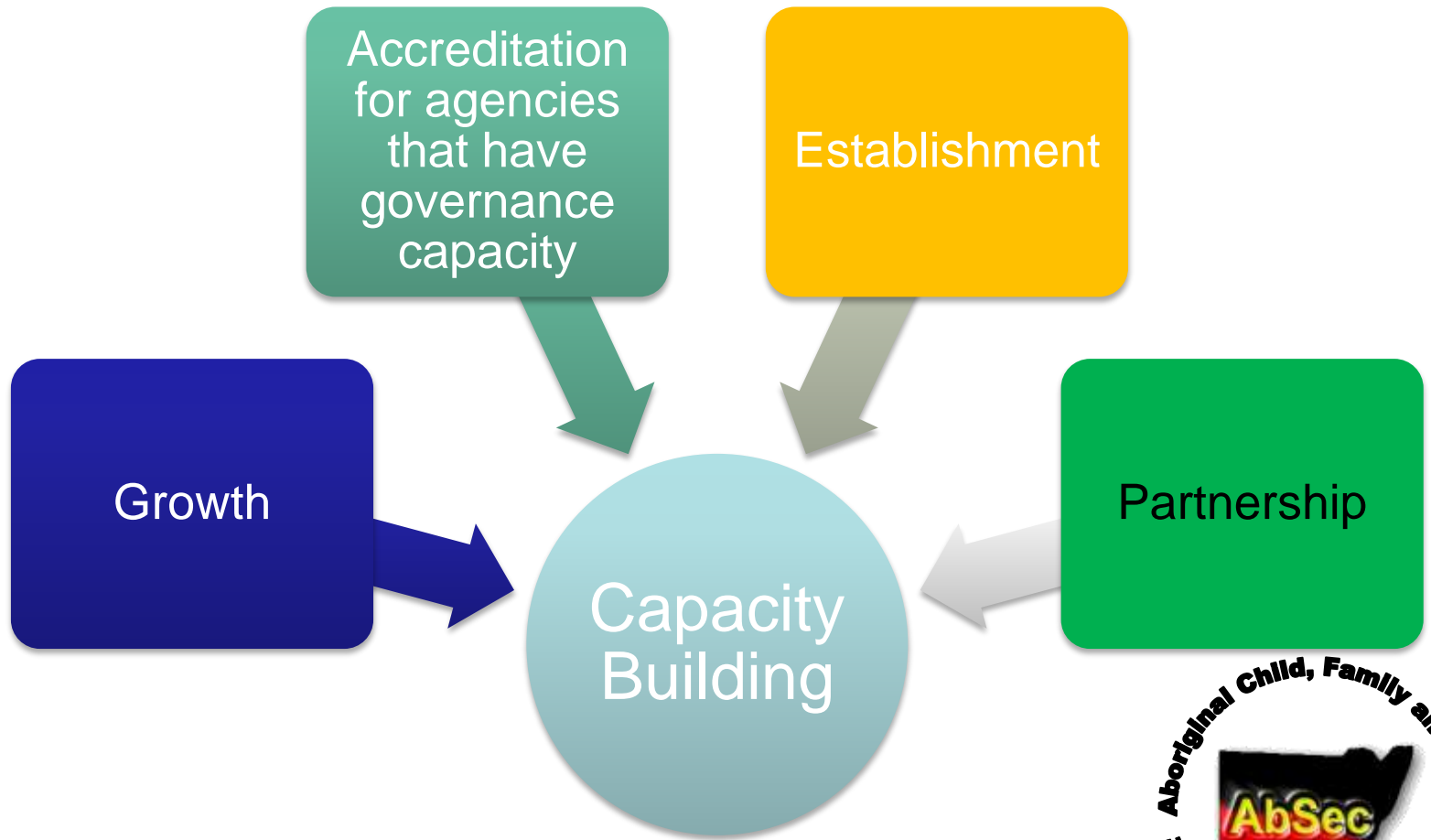


Over the last six years AbSec and Community Services have worked together to build capacity of Aboriginal community controlled organisations in NSW to deliver out-of-home care (OOHC). A commitment to work with Aboriginal organisations to build their capacity in this area was reiterated in Keep Them Safe and has been agreed by the *Ministerial Advisory Group on Transition of OOHC Service Provision in NSW to the Non-Government Sector*.



Capacity building

Four overlapping models have been developed and applied in different areas.



Partnerships under “The Transition”

- The main requirement for an agency to provide out-of-home care is that it must be accredited with the NSW Children’s Guardian. Any proposed model (partnership or otherwise) must therefore reflect the accreditation status of the agency.



Ultimately, all Aboriginal children and young people in OOHC will be cared for by Aboriginal carers, supported by Aboriginal caseworkers employed by local Aboriginal managed agencies.

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All Aboriginal children and young people in OOHC must be placed in a culturally appropriate setting with a strong preference for placements in Aboriginal community controlled organisations or in non-Aboriginal agencies working in partnership with a local Aboriginal agency, with a view to developing capacity and independence.

