

IMAGINE

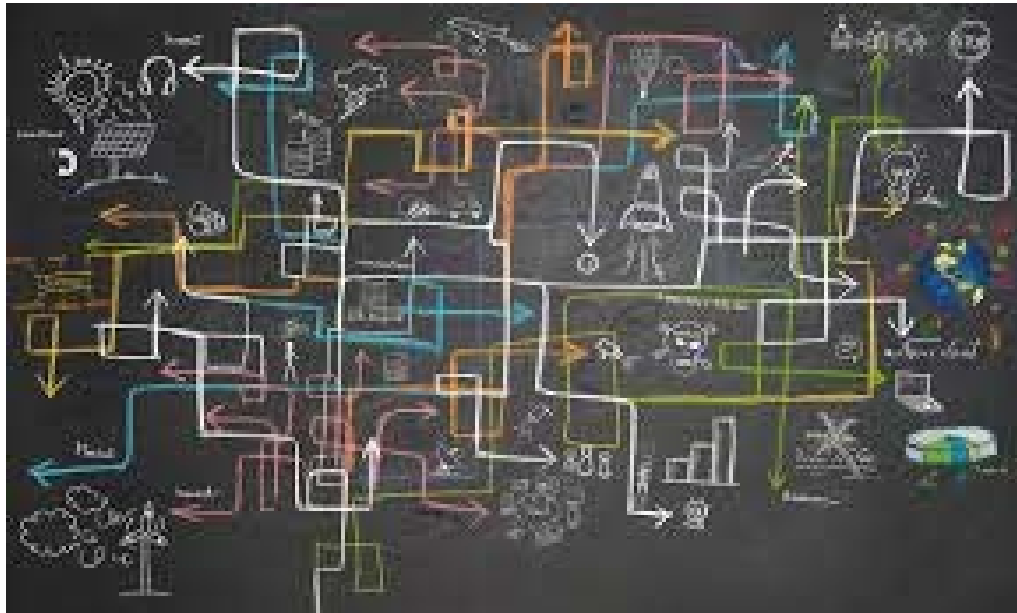
**A SYSTEM WILLING AND ABLE TO PROTECT CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE
AND SUPPORT FAMILIES**



**An exploration of the effective use of intensive family support services
to address child abuse and neglect
(United Kingdom, Denmark, United States of America, Canada)**

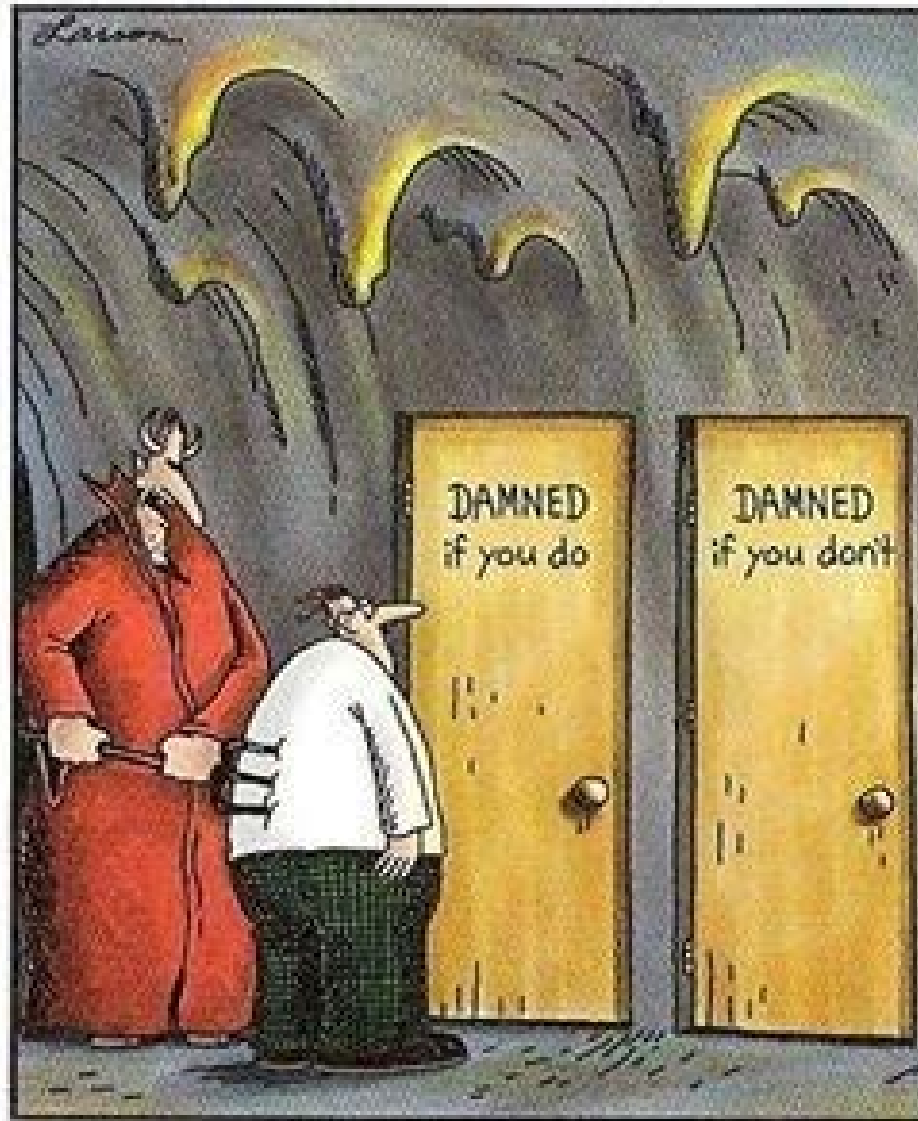
WE ALL AGREE THAT THE DYNAMICS OF HARM ARE COMPLEX!

- The constant dilemma for those working in the child, youth and family support sector seems to be the choice between exposing a child or young person to abuse or neglect through either their family or the 'system'.
- How can governments or services possibly solve complex issues that are unique to each family across different communities and cultures?



DYNAMICS OF HARM

WHAT IT FEELS LIKE FOR STAFF



"C'mon, c'mon—it's either one or the other."

DYNAMICS OF HARM

WHAT IT FEELS LIKE FOR FAMILIES



“Why, yes ... we do have two children who won't eat their vegetables.”

WHERE TO BEGIN?

LISTENING TO THE EXPERTS.....

(THE CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES)

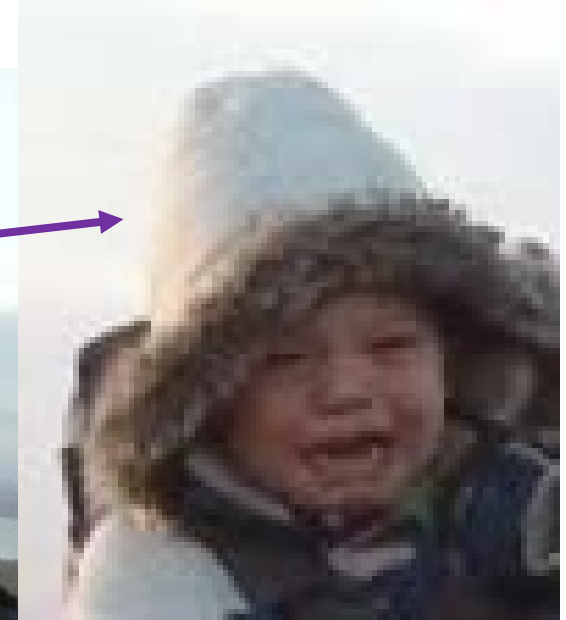
The single biggest influence on my career was not a colleague, mentor or a lecturer, rather, it was a young person

“Listening is such a simple act. It requires us to be present, and that takes practice, but we don't have to do anything else. We don't have to advise, or coach, or sound wise. We just have to be willing to sit there and listen.”

Margaret J. Wheatley

MY CHURCHILL FELLOWSHIP

LESSONS FROM AROUND THE WORLD



*Reminder what can happen when you **DON'T** listen to children and young people's voices!!*

Arthur's Seat, Edinburgh
Nov, 2012.



VERY BRIEFLY, WHAT I LEARNT

- Complex issues such as child abuse and neglect / domestic and family violence do not occur in isolation, rather in **contexts**. (*Melton, 1987*)
- **Blood is thicker** than child protection services (*Berg, 1999*)
- **Youth need family**, not just skills for independence. Without this, young people care are more likely to experience a devastating storm of academic, physical and financial struggles
- You can't just '**plug and play**' services into families or communities and expect them to engage
- We need a system that **shares, not shifts responsibilities** for our most vulnerable
- **A political and public will** must be established in order to challenge the hearts and minds of the community to assert that our most vulnerable children, young people and families are worthy of respect, care and support - whatever it takes.
- AND, most importantly.....

**..IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE CHANGE, ONE MUST FIRST
SEEK TO UNDERSTAND WHAT MAINTAINS OUR
EXISTING RULES.**

“The pull of history is powerful! We need to recognise it, understand it and make conscious effort to change it.

Historically, we have separated the child & young person from the family and the child, young person & family from the community.

We need to re-think the paradigm to one of inclusiveness that sees the child, young person, family and community as a whole - as the “client”.

(Dr William Bell, President and CEO Casey Family Programs)

A QUICK SURVEY



Who here has someone in their life that they worry about?

Who here DOES NOT have a mobile phone?

If that person you are worried about was to call you right now and needed your help immediately, would you get up and walk out?

Who would do the same thing for you if you were in urgent need for help?

IN A CRISIS, EVERY SECOND COUNTS



Distinguishing Safety and Risk



Commsync™
communities in sync

WE KNOW NETWORKS BUILD SAFETY!



Research shows that people report being more likely to intervene and help in scenarios of domestic violence where a person known to them is involved.*

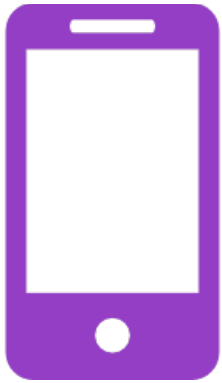
Those who experience violence often report it is through the support of family and friends that they were able to manage through the trauma or leave violent relationships.

The network of safety and support people are the ones who can work with the children, young people or families to develop and implement an immediate safety plan and over time, support and implement their longer term plan for safety.

(*Research Report on Community Focus Groups, Feb 2015: Special Taskforce on Domestic & Family Violence QLD)

TRADITIONAL SAFETY PLANS

Children and young people at threat of abuse and neglect are traditionally provided with this safety plan:



Get to a phone



Call the police



Explain the situation



Wait for help

ISSUES

- When faced with threat or violence, many children or young people can't physically get to a phone without placing themselves in further danger.
- Anxiety also causes fingers to sweat and hearts to race, which can make devices which require swiping or passwords difficult to use.
- Calling the police can also be difficult in many emergency and emerging crisis scenarios, and may in fact escalate the threat.
- These plans aren't followed through, often due to mistrust of child protection agencies or police as the outcome is often Arrest; Report or Remove
- When they are called, time is also of the essence, and in many cases waiting for the police to respond may actually be too late.





“PEOPLE SUPPORT WHAT THEY HAVE HAD A HAND IN CREATING”

(MARGARET WHEATLEY)

Whilst there are many professional experts across the sector, many who are here in this room today, it is the children and young people who are the experts in the own life.

One size doesn't fit all, therefore, the plan for safety needs to be tailor made to the child, young person or family's specific circumstances. The responders are those people who will drop everything to make sure you are safe, at any given time of the day or night, and already know what to do when they get the call for help.

OUR SAFETY SOLUTION IS YOUR SAFETY SOLUTION

Comprehensive safety plans, tailored to individuals, activated by wearable technology:



Comprehensive
safety plan
developed



Technology
embedded in a
wearable device



Activated by user
when at risk



Support network
alerted and
responds

Any combination of:

- Family & Friends
- Case workers
- A1 Monitoring Centre
- Including in-call conference to Police

AT A GLANCE

The desktop application interface shows a map of Brisbane, Australia, with several vehicle locations marked. A table on the right lists the vehicles, and a detailed view for 'RachaelWatch' is shown at the bottom.

Name	Last seen	Track	Status
RachaelWatch	18/04/2018 10:44 AM		🟢
Chris	21/03/2018		🟡
GoogleHome	21/03/2018		🔴
Sidnee	17/03/2018		🔴
Tom Watch	5/01/2018		🔴
Net User	1/01/2018		🔴
Griva	15/12/2017		🔴

Events (13/13) **Tracker**

Status **Vehicle info**

RachaelWatch

Last opened: 22/01/2018 10:44 AM

Address: 257 Kuhn's Grove Rd, Kuhn's Grove QLD 4059, Australia

Speed: 11.8 km/h, Heading: SE, 144.4°, Latitude: -27.84665, Longitude: 153.06413, Altitude: 0.0 m

Desktop View



App View

The mobile app interface shows a map of Brisbane, Australia, with several vehicle locations marked. A detailed view for 'Rachael Huawei' is shown at the top, and a detailed view for 'Chris Huawei' is shown at the bottom.

Rachael Huawei

Chris Huawei

THE TIME TO *IMAGINE* IS OVER; IT'S NOW TIME FOR ACTION.

You may say that I'm a dreamer to imagine that we can create systems willing and able to meet the needs of our most vulnerable children, young people and families.....but I'm not the only one



John Lennon, Imagine
(1971)

CONTACTS

Chris Boyle –

CEO Commsync Foundation

chris@commsync.com.au

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please visit:**

www.commsync.com.au

www.commsyncalert.com.au

ENQUIRIES :

admin@commsync.com.au

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