

Stronger Places, Stronger People National Leadership Group (NLG) Communique – March 2025

The *Stronger Places, Stronger People* (SPSP) National Leadership Group (NLG) met in Sydney and virtually, on Wednesday 12 March 2025

The SPSP National Leadership Group (the Group) held its first meeting for 2025 in Sydney on 12 March 2025. This meeting was also the 20th NLG meeting.

Building on the previous meeting, the group continued to explore and define its overarching role and purpose. This discussion was informed by key themes that emerged from one-on-one conversations held with each member prior to the meeting. As part of this conversation, the group also began to consider how its work aligns with, compliments or connects to other existing place-based committees and initiatives, with the aim to foster greater collaboration and avoid duplication of efforts.

This was followed by a discussion on the Whole of Government Framework to Address Community Change (the Framework) where members were asked to provide feedback on the Framework and its supporting resources.

Mr Simon Factor, Executive Convenor, Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth and Dr Luke Craven, Chief Executive Officer, Partnership for Local Action and Community Empowerment (PLACE) presented to the Group on the work progressing under the Investment Dialogue for Australian Children (IDAC) and PLACE.

The Stronger Places Alliance (SPA) provided an overview of the work of SPA. The group noted the importance of working collaborate on key actions, with the aim to foster greater collaboration and avoid duplication of efforts.

Dr Michelle Lucas (Executive Director, Logan Together) provided an overview of the Logan Together Initiative highlighting key work progress across the early years. The time of the meeting coincided with Cyclone Alfred this provided Dr Lucas with the opportunity to share how they could support the community.

Mr Alister Ferguson with Kim Grey (Director, Department of Social Services) provided an update on the establishment of the Evaluation Reference Group which will provide strategic guidance for the evaluation of SPSP including support for broader Understanding, Measurement, Evaluation and Learning (U-MEL) Strategy implementation as needed.

Alister informed the Group that he had accepted the role as Co-chair and would report back to the Group in the near future.

The meeting concluded with the next meeting proposed for June 2025.