

Stronger Places, Stronger People (SPSP) National Leadership Group (NLG) - Communique – November 2025

The *Stronger Places, Stronger People* (SPSP) National Leadership Group (NLG) met virtually, on Wednesday 12 November 2025.

The SPSP National Leadership Group (the Group) held its fourth (and final) meeting of 2025 virtually. It was the 23rd meeting of NLG since it commenced in 2020. The following matters were discussed.

Digital Atlas

Members noted the presentation from Geoscience Australia on the Digital Atlas. The Digital Atlas brings together trusted national data in a central platform and allows users to explore, analyse and visualise data which will enhance the ability to deliver better informed place-based policies, programs and services.

Members were also provided an update on the recently launched DSS Grants App. The app allows users to navigate a geographical location of choice with integrated data from the digital atlas.

Families and Communities (FaC) Reform

Members were advised of the current FaC reform consultation process, [announced](#) by the Minister for Social Services, the Hon Tanya Plibersek MP, on 23 October 2025. The proposed changes aim to achieve more efficient and effective delivery of services by making funding arrangements easier, streamlining administration requirements, and focusing on meaningful outcomes-based reporting, so providers can spend more time delivering services to families.

SPSP Evaluation

Members received an update on the SPSP Evaluation. They were advised that the evaluation scoping document had been agreed and the evaluation is scheduled to commence in early-2026.

Stronger Places Alliance (SPA) Update

Members were presented with the proposed SPA governance arrangements and the similarities these share with the Empowered Communities National (EC) arrangements. Members agreed that more work can be done to review the EC arrangements to ensure alignment with SPA arrangements.

Members discussed outcomes from the SPA Workshop which focussed on shared decision making with Government.

Empowered Communities (National) (EC)

Members were provided details of the Joint Decision Making that EC have been undertaking for several years on ceasing grants associated with the Indigenous Advancement Strategy.

Members agreed to the first meeting of 2026 in early March.