

SPSP National Leadership Group Communique – August and November 2023

The *Stronger Places, Stronger People* (SPSP) National Leadership Group met in Sydney and virtually on 1 August and virtually on 21 November 2023

The National Leadership Group August Meeting was held in a shortened format, given its proximity to the previous meeting, which had been delayed from early May to late June 2023.

The August meeting focused on two key themes: the Foundation Partner for a National Centre for Place-based Collaboration (Nexus Centre) and progressing shared decision-making.

The Foundation Partner lead, Dr Luke Craven of Collaboration for Impact, presented to the Group on progress to date and spoke to the outcomes of an All-In session that was held with key stakeholders in Brisbane in July 2023.

An update was provided on the progress of a draft framework for shared decision-making, being developed by the SPSP backbone leads, including an overview of how the Government and communities can take a phased approach to establishing and testing the conditions for and implementation of shared decision-making at the community level.

The Group agreed that the next quarterly meeting would be held in November.

The National Leadership Group November Meeting was held virtually on 21 November 2023.

The Group discussed the importance of and need for a robust approach to measurement and evaluation for the SPSP initiative as it moves into the second 5-year phase. The Group agreed that the development of a measurement and evaluation plan was a priority, with a draft plan to be tabled at the June 2024 meeting.

An update was provided by the Department of Social Services on the Foundation Partner's draft prospectus for the Nexus Centre. The Group reiterated its support for and interest in the proposed Nexus Centre and looks forward to an update from the Foundation Partner on other activities it is undertaking to provide practical supports for community-led initiatives.

Implementation updates on the development of the partnerships in the Gove Peninsula and Rockhampton were discussed. The Group noted the sophistication and strength of the SPSP approach to partnership that has centred respect for Yolngu culture and perspectives in Gove, and that has engaged 3 levels of government and people with lived experience in the co-design work with community in Rockhampton.

Strong positive feedback on and examples of the impacts of the SPSP Leadership and Learning Program were shared with the Group. The program has provided opportunities for partners to connect, generate dialogue, build relationships and share learnings. It has also helped local leaders recognise their power and ability to influence, and to step into this in ways that generate improved collaboration across community.

The group considered the key priorities for their forward work in 2024, including a strong focus on the strategy for SPSP as it enters the second 5-year phase of the initiative.

The Group agreed that the next quarterly meeting will be held in Mildura in March 2024 to coincide with ChangeFest24.