

SPSP National Leadership Group Communique – 17 May 2022

The *Stronger Places, Stronger People* (SPSP) National Leadership Group met in Sydney and virtually on 17 May 2022.

The National Leadership Group (NLG) met in May to advise on strategy and implementation of the *Stronger Places, Stronger People* (SPSP) initiative, including the Leadership and Learning Program, work to resolve systemic barriers in Bourke, and how the Group can support social sector organisations to better align their work to community-led agendas.

The Group welcomed a new State Special Advisor from the Victorian Government, Mr Jeremy Levine.

The Group held a working session on the SPSP Leadership and Learning Program. Members recognised that the quality of the contributing leaders from across the system – cultural and community leaders, backbone leaders, leaders from social, education and justice sectors, and government leaders – is pivotal to the success of the SPSP initiative and to create the change to improve outcomes for children, families and communities.

The Group provided advice to progress implementation of the SPSP Leadership and Learning Program and acknowledged the important role of this program to enable the initiative and change in communities.

The Group welcomed the update from Vivianne Prince (Backbone Director, Maranguka) regarding the work to address systemic barriers to family support being progressed in Bourke, NSW. The Group noted the importance and evolution of this work, and will seek to broker solutions if blockages with services and funders arise. The Group supports the efforts to record learnings and build a process that can be shared and benefit other community-led change initiatives.

The Group noted progress made over the previous quarter in SPSP communities by backbone teams, local leadership groups and their partners. Many SPSP communities have undertaken annual the SPSP processes Progress Mapping and Learning Circle sessions during the previous quarter. These processes have created in communities a shared understanding of where the way of working is at, and what the collective actions are to make progress.

The Group reflected on its convening of social sector leaders in April 2022. The Group agreed the importance of supporting the social sector to better align to community-led agendas, and acknowledged the challenges associated with achieving this change. The Group discussed next steps for this work and agreed that a working group will be formed to plan the way forward. The working group will bring recommendations for next steps for this work to the August NLG meeting.

The Group were enthusiastic regarding the proposal for the August NLG meeting to be held in Burnie, Tasmania.

End.