

## **SPSP National Leadership Group Communiqué 2 - 17 August 2021**

**The *Stronger Places, Stronger People* (SPSP) National Leadership Group met virtually on 17 August 2021.**

### *Creating change to address the causes of problems*

National Leadership Group members agreed a plan to convene government officials and service providers who are ready to back in community-led change in Bourke. The convening will co-design change to policy or resource flows to align to the *Growing our Kids up Safe, Smart and Strong* Strategy. Maranguka, the Backbone team in Bourke, has over many years built relationships and readiness for change. The convening will focus on solutions to the causes of problems and on how to change parts of the system, such as policy and funding, that are ‘holding’ problems in place. It will focus on addressing problems that cannot be solved through funding a new program or delivering a new service. The convening will co-design and test how shared decision making between the community of Bourke and governments can create better lives for people in Bourke.

### *Strengthening the SPSP Model*

Members advised on amendments to strengthen the SPSP Model and confirmed their support for the objective of the initiative, to demonstrate that community-led collective impact can create better outcomes. The SPSP Model incorporates six conditions for community-led collective impact. These are: continuous and inclusive community engagement; a backbone team that is accountable to a local leadership group; new activities that deliver results; a shared community strategy or agenda; a systems approach; and a commitment to strategic learning, data and evidence.

The NLG advised that the SPSP Model should focus on tackling disadvantage, rather than poverty, and that the assumptions underlying the Model should be made explicit. The Group indicated that robust evaluation is essential, to demonstrate if the initiative achieves what is intended. A key question the initiative can answer is, what are the conditions required for community-led collective impact to work effectively? The NLG advised that the Model should also seek to demonstrate whether, and under what conditions, community-led collective impact can: a) address systemic barriers impeding better outcomes; b) contribute

to population-level change for key indicators; and c) prevent or disrupt disadvantage over the longer-term.

The Group indicated that the four SPSP communities with an established collective impact practice should be supported to document what is working, share and propagate these findings and analyse the contribution of their initiative to population-level change. The NLG advised that the six early-stage SPSP communities should receive support to accelerate their building of foundations for collective impact practice, and support to frame their progress on a continuum towards population-level impacts.

The NLG again emphasised that the establishment of an Enabling Partner, to provide technical and capacity-building support to SPSP communities, remains a crucial part of implementing the SPSP Model.

#### *Implementation of SPSP*

The NLG was briefed on progress in SPSP communities over the past quarter, and on leadership development and learning, including a plan for SPSP communities to learn, with a focus on six key areas of practice.

The NLG noted key early results in the four SPSP communities that have established collective impact practice, that against state trends, each are showing a small improvement in outcomes for children as measured by the Australian Early Development Census.

#### *Measurement and Evaluation*

The SPSP Measurement and Evaluation Reference Group briefed the NLG on its work to support the development of indicators to measure change and on targets to track progress. In addition, members were advised on the data sources available to track change within SPSP communities, and the importance of analysing both locally-collected data and population-level data to measure impact at the community and initiative levels.

The August meeting was attended by both NLG Members and Special Advisors from governments.

End.