

The *Stronger Places, Stronger People* (SPSP) National Leadership Group (NLG) met virtually on 16 November 2021.

The Group was joined by the Secretary of the Department of Social Services, Mr Ray Griggs AO CSC.

In his remarks, the Secretary emphasised the importance of place-based and community-led partnerships with governments to implement local solutions to complex challenges. The SPSP initiative and the Empowered Communities initiative, led by the National Indigenous Australians Agency, both enable community-led change through genuine partnerships between governments, communities, service providers, philanthropy and business.

The Secretary also spoke to the importance of sharing government investment data with communities and facilitating local decision-making on investments. He highlighted opportunities to better integrate multiple place-based initiatives being implemented at the Commonwealth level.

Capability supports for backbones and communities

In order to create change and demonstrate the success of collective impact, the Group views support for SPSP communities, particularly in data literacy and analysis, and support for governments, as an immediate need.

A NLG and government working group will undertake work to scope and detail a business case for support. Down the track this could enable community-led change beyond SPSP communities and help guide and support communities interested in place-based collective impact work.

Implementation

Members indicated support for further engagement in Rockhampton. In addition, they noted progress made in SPSP communities in the previous quarter, as well as progress made on the SPSP Model review process, with advice sought from state and territory and SPSP community partners as part of the review.

Addressing the causes of problems

The Bourke Tribal Council and Maranguka have identified family violence as the initial focus area of a project that tests shared decision-making between governments and the community of Bourke. The project is supported by a NLG working group, and focuses on changing parts of the system, such as policy and funding flows, in order to improve outcomes for people in Bourke.

Measurement

Members highlighted the importance of access to datasets that are current, collected frequently and able to inform decision-making in community and in governments. The NLG was also briefed on the Department's investments in Seer Data and Analytics, to improve data access, analytics and visualisation for SPSP communities and the initiative.

Reflections

Members identified a key achievement this year has been engaging with SPSP backbone teams and local leadership groups to develop solutions to fill immediate and broader capability gaps. This work has supported backbone teams to continue implementing local solutions in their communities, with early signs of success.

The Group expressed enthusiasm for holding the February 2022 meeting in a SPSP community.

End.