

SPSP National Leadership Group Communiqué – 15 February 2022

The *Stronger Places, Stronger People* (SPSP) National Leadership Group met virtually on 15 February 2022.

The SPSP National Leadership Group welcomed two new Members: Ms Jessie Sleep, Chief Executive of Far West Community Partnerships, and Mr Michael Traill AM, Chair of the Paul Ramsay Foundation. The NLG was also joined by a new State Special Advisor from the New South Wales government, Mr Chris Hanger, Deputy Secretary, Regional Development and Programs, Department of Regional NSW.

The Group acknowledged the contributions of members and the Department of Social Services (the department) to advance the establishment of a national centre for place-based collaboration by commencing an initial, foundational phase of work. The Group agreed to continue to advise on and oversight the work to establish a national centre for place-based collaboration.

As a key action to address systemic barriers, the NLG agreed to convene senior social sector leaders in April, to elevate and expand the practices of organisations who are aligning their efforts to community-led strategies. The NLG is interested to assist other sectors and governments align efforts to community-led strategies.

The Group noted progress made over the previous quarter in SPSP communities by backbone teams, local leadership groups and their partners. Progress included the significant roles played by several backbone teams in directly supporting and co-ordinating local responses to COVID-19 outbreaks to assist their communities.

The Group learned from insights on the complementary roles that the SPSP initiative and the *Empowered Communities* initiative (facilitated by National Indigenous Australians Agency) can play within a community when well integrated. The Group highlighted the importance of the shared decision-making processes supported by *Empowered Communities*, and the strengths of the SPSP initiative in facilitating a genuine community-led approach and in working to address systemic barriers.

The Group was also briefed on the work underway by the department to improve data access for SPSP communities.

The Group agreed its priorities and Forward Work Plan for 2022, supporting communities to resolve systemic barriers, advising on data access and analysis, evaluation strategy and the leadership development and learning program.

The NLG expressed enthusiasm for holding the May and August meetings in SPSP communities.

End.