

## **SPSP National Leadership Group Communique – 22 November 2022**

### **The *Stronger Places, Stronger People* (SPSP) National Leadership Group met in Canberra and virtually on 22 November 2022.**

The National Leadership Group (NLG) met in November to advise on strategy, implementation and evaluation of the *Stronger Places, Stronger People* initiative. The Group met in Canberra for the second time since 2020.

The Group welcomed the SPSP Backbone team leaders to the first session of the meeting to present and discuss their co-authored Early Evidence of Impact Report (EEIR), which was developed as an action arising from the meeting in August. The Group recognised the strong and swift work in the development of the EEIR and recommended the Department provide a timely commitment to the second phase of SPSP by a bid in the 2023 budget process. The Group agreed upon its role in building support and investment in community-led change and their next steps.

Inside Policy, which are contracted to complete an independent evaluation of the SPSP initiative, provided a progress update to the Group. This covered the evaluation framework and stakeholder engagement plan. Inside Policy highlighted the next steps and confirmed its planned approach to further engaging the NLG in the evaluation in 2023.

Collaboration for Impact (CFI) provided an update on the SPSP Leadership Development and Learning program. The Group agreed the importance of the program and appreciated the update on its delivery and insights provided by CFI.

The Group heard an update from the Department on the foundation partner for the National Centre for Place-Based Collaboration, the Nexus Centre. The Group communicated its appreciation on the progress of the foundation partner for the Nexus Centre and expressed its commitment for the Group to continue actively supporting the establishment of the foundation partner, the delivery and the development of a business case. The Group endorsed the Nexus Centre being a practical organisation rather than generating academic research.

The Group also noted the strong progress made by backbone teams, local leadership groups and their partners over the year in SPSP communities. The Group noted the readiness of community-led initiatives for shared decision-making and that governments progressing shared decision-making is central to SPSP and further results in communities.

The Group proposed the February 2023 meeting be a full day session, to be held in Sydney.

End.