

SPSP National Leadership Group Communique – February 2024

The *Stronger Places, Stronger People* (SPSP) National Leadership Group met in Sydney and virtually on Thursday 22 February

The National Leadership Group (NLG) held its February 2024 meeting in Sydney, which was attended by the Minister for Social Services, the Hon Amanda Rishworth MP. The Minister spoke to the Group about her vision for the future of place-based partnerships and thanked the Group for their considered advice and support for the strategy and implementation of the SPSP initiative over its first 5-year phase.

The Minister noted the robust approach to SPSP partnerships that has underpinned the initiative's success, highlighting that the genuine community-led partnership approach is making a difference where universal and programmatic approaches are usually not able to be tailored to meet local needs in shifting the dial on disadvantage.

The meeting focussed on investigating opportunities to shift outcomes and consider more flexible and targeted funding models under the Targeting Entrenched Disadvantage (TED) 2023-24 Budget Package.

The Department of Social Services updated the Group on the implementation of the TED Package and the development of the Whole of Government Framework to Address Disadvantage (the Framework), which will identify strategic objectives and key principles to guide how Government works in partnership with communities and support more impactful investment in initiatives that address disadvantage.

The Group also discussed the alignment of the Framework with the Australian Public Service Reform agenda and other Government strategies, noting the importance of identifying opportunities to advance the work of the SPSP initiative.

Representatives from the Foundation Partner for a National Centre for Place-based Collaboration provided an update on the progress of a data blueprint, community data needs, and data maturity model. The Group agreed to continue to engage with the Foundation Partner over the remaining months of their work and to continue discussions to support the developing approach to providing relevant, timely and accessible data to communities to empower local decision-making.

The Group continue to support the strategic development and implementation of the measurement and evaluation approach for the initiative and noted an upcoming measurement and evaluation partnership workshop scheduled to occur in March 2024 alongside ChangeFest24 in Mildura.

The next quarterly meeting will be held in Sydney in June 2024.

End.