

## **SPSP National Leadership Group Communique – October 2024**

**The *Stronger Places, Stronger People* (SPSP) National Leadership Group met in Melbourne and virtually on Wednesday 30 October 2024**

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The Stronger Place, Stronger People (SPSP) National Leadership Group (the Group) held its 19<sup>th</sup> and final meeting for 2024 in Melbourne (and virtually) on 30 October 2024.

This meeting was the first for new chair, Ms Karyn Baylis AM, who welcomed several new members. Ms Baylis also thanked previous members, including the previous chair Mr Tony Berg AM, for their continued support and dedication.

This meeting was attended by the Minister for Social Services, the Hon Amanda Rishworth MP, who addressed the Group including speaking about her expectation in members fulfilling their roles in the second 5-year phase of the SPSP and how this contributes to the Government's broader strategic approaches under the Targeting Entrenched Disadvantage package.

The Minister discussed the launch of the *Partnerships for Local Action and Community Empowerment* (PLACE) that had occurred earlier in the day. She spoke of the importance of the work proposed for PLACE and how it will enable and support community-led change, including the SPSP partner initiatives.

Several items were presented by the Department of Social Services (the Department) including providing new members with an overview of the SPSP model and an update from each SPSP community. The Department also presented on the measurement and evaluation of SPSP, with discussions focusing on next steps for this project including the reestablishment of a subgroup that can progress this work and report back to the Group.

The Department also provided an overview of the Targeting Entrenched Disadvantage package which complemented the information provided the Minister. The overview focused on the Investment Dialogue for Australia's Children (IDAC), with members of the group who are also involved in IDAC expressed their excitement for the proposed work and the potential for bringing communities to the forefront of thinking. Updates were also provided on the Outcomes Fund and data sharing including an update on the Digital Atlas and the expansion to include grant level data.

This was followed by a discussion on the Whole of Government Framework to Address Community Disadvantage (the Framework), and how this work can support and align existing efforts.

The Group discussed its purpose and priorities, and the forward work program for next year, including proposing to hold the next in March 2025.