

## **SPSP National Leadership Group Communiqué – 21 February 2023**

### **The *Stronger Places, Stronger People* (SPSP) National Leadership Group met in Sydney and virtually on 21 February 2023.**

The National Leadership Group (NLG) met in February to advise on the strategy, implementation and evaluation of the *Stronger Places, Stronger People* initiative. The Group met for a full day for the first meeting of 2023.

The Group participated in an evaluation workshop with Inside Policy, who are contracted to complete an independent evaluation of the SPSP initiative.

The preferred provider to be the Foundation Partner, to develop a prospectus for a National Centre for Place-Based Collaboration (Nexus Centre) presented to the Group, followed by a discussion and confirmation of the Group's ongoing role and engagement with the Foundation Partner as the work progresses. The Group clarified that members will engage with the Foundation Partner, both as individuals and as a group, throughout the design process for a proposed Nexus Centre.

A progress update from the Department of Social Services was provided on the implementation of the initiative and, in particular, the ongoing SPSP support for early-stage communities. The Group also noted an increasing interest in the initiative and partnerships from across communities and governments.

The Group agreed on the importance of progressing authority for and implementation of shared decision-making between community-led initiatives and their government and service delivery partners as part of SPSP. Jessie Sleep, Chief Executive of Far West Community Partnerships, presented on shared decision-making in the Far West Region. The Group agreed to form a new working group to support the further development of a proposal for shared decision-making and provided its in-principle endorsement of the pre-conditions and principles for shared decision-making under SPSP - that have been co-designed by SPSP Backbone team leaders.

The Group generated a draft forward work plan for 2023 and to engage with Backbone Leads to finalise this work plan. The Group noted their priorities for the year ahead, which include: continuing to advise the Foundation Partner, engaging with the SPSP evaluation, championing the initiative as the pre-eminent, community-led, place-based approach and supporting the critical reform work that is currently underway.

The Group agreed to the next meeting, and an SPSP community visit, to be held in Bourke, NSW and expressed enthusiasm and thanks to the Bourke Tribal Council and Maranguka for offering to host.

End.