

# *Productive Futures for Everyone*

*our community, our voice, our future*



## **Stronger Places, Stronger People & the Gladstone Region**

The Gladstone Region is facing an opportunity that requires the involvement of community leaders who are ready to drive change to alter the course of the future for our community and create productive futures for everyone.

The opportunity has been presented under the Stronger Places, Stronger People initiative, a partnership of the Australian and Queensland governments.

### **Stronger Places, Stronger People (SPSP) will enable our community to**

- capture the collective wisdom of everyone: local people; cultural and community leaders; service providers; business leaders; philanthropic organisations and governments
- progress the community's vision
- support and strengthen existing work
- plan and act together, in the best interests of local children and families

SPSP provides opportunity for our community to partner with government and for government to provide support to our community to lead the work locally and meet us where we are at.

### **Your involvement**

If you have been waiting for an opportunity to tap into a wider circle of support for your own work or interest in disrupting disadvantage, you might consider a role on the Leadership Group or a Working Group to assist address a specific issue.

If you are unable to participate on an ongoing basis, but would like to be involved, you may choose to attend issues workshops (a continuation of previous work such as the QCOSS Changing Lives, Changing Communities held in May 2019). To be kept informed of opportunities to participate, please ask to be added to our mailing list.

## **Who can participate in this opportunity?**

Everyone is welcome. You don't have to be an expert, or have experience working in the Human Services sector to be involved.

This is a community driven initiative and requires a diversity of stakeholders and a mix of lived experience as well as sector experience. If you know someone that you think could provide a valuable voice as part of this conversation, but may be too humble to self-nominate, consider being the encouragement they might need to take part.

## **The focus area**

SPSP aims to build stronger futures for local children and families. In the Gladstone Region this is about creating *productive futures for everyone*. While the work is for the whole community, the focus is on children, as a starting point, to create intergenerational disruption to the cycle of disadvantage.

To create real social change, the work extends beyond service provision to seek wider solutions through changing the systems within which they sit. It extends beyond treating the symptoms or managing the problems and aims to address the causal factors for children that start the chain of events that lead to disadvantage.

The work will seek to understand all the conditions that hold disadvantage in place as a norm and look for alternative approaches. This will require open minds, creativity and innovation and will need to have all voices at the table.

## **Where we have come from**

Gladstone community, through the support of our local industry and government organisations, has a number of recorded consultation and community aspiration projects.

These projects have captured collective community views and experiences about living in our region and have identified the values and vision of the community. The resulting documents have become a historical record of the priority issues in the region at the point of consultation, as seen by the community members engaged in the process.

Additionally, the Gladstone Region has developed a number of initiatives that demonstrate success in community working together to address social issues.

SPSP provides an opportunity to build on the region's successes and the hard work of community to date and supports the current priority needs of our community.

## **SPSP in the Gladstone Region, the journey so far**

Since 2019, government partners, the Australian Government Department of Social Services (DSS) and Queensland Government Department of Communities Disability Services and Seniors (DCDSS), supported by specialist consultants, have been engaging with individuals in the Gladstone Region community.

In July 2019 DSS visited Gladstone to meet with sector stakeholders and Gladstone Regional Council. The wider community of practitioners were invited (via an email from Gladstone Regional Council's Community Advisory Service to local Interagency networks in October 2019) to attend a series of discussions facilitated by consultants Collaboration for Impact and Price Waterhouse Cooper's Indigenous consulting arm PIC.

Following these meetings, interested community members formed a working group that met regularly to complete the foundation work required for the Gladstone Region to qualify to progress in the partnership development and to receive financial support for a paid local team. This was a critical step in enabling the Gladstone Region to progress as a potential partner with the Australian and Queensland Government under the SPSP initiative.

## **Current Status**

Through the SPSP initiative our community is currently receiving funding to:

- employ a local team, the 'Start-up Backbone' (since October 2020) to work with local leaders, residents and organisations wanting to partner to drive the work
- engage community leaders and service providers to contribute to the work
- start a collective conversation with community to look at local causal factors leading to disadvantage
- collect and analyse data to understand the Gladstone Region's journey to date
- review and consider the work of previous community consultations
- access frameworks and tools developed for SPSP communities
- access specialist support for the local team to drive community-led action

## **Next Steps**

The current Working Group intends to ...

invite local child and family stakeholders to discuss works focused on disrupting disadvantage and addressing causal factors

establish a Leadership Group of community members, service providers, government representatives, philanthropists, and funders

## Leadership Group

A local Leadership Group will be appointed in February 2021.

The local Leadership Group will be made up of community members, service providers, government representatives, philanthropists, and other funders.

In early 2021, the newly established local Leadership Group will ...



Once established, the local Leadership Group will:

- 1) Work with community to develop strategy including planning, prioritisation, and implementation – building on the foundations of previous work
- 2) Measure progress and improve the effectiveness of interventions and service systems
- 3) Assist to ensure that funding decisions for the Gladstone Region are informed by local evidence and local people by hearing the voice of community
- 4) Influence policy and funding decisions so grants are directed to initiatives prioritised in line with the community strategy and plan of action

The local Leadership Group will do this by:

- Setting the culture and expectations for community-led change through collaboration, accountability, creativity, energy, and collective momentum
- Monitoring the effectiveness of the work at the local level and of the SPSP model on population level outcomes, with support from the Australian Government.

Over time, the work aims to support the alignment of policies, systems, funding and delivery models to the community's plan.

## **Working Groups**

Working Groups will be formed around key themes of action or life stages and will work with the Leadership Group to engage community for the co-design of intervention strategies.

## **Backbone**

The work will be supported by a team of paid employees, the Backbone Team.

## **Auspice**

A local organisation will be appointed as an Auspice to receive and manage the funds and host the Backbone Team. In other SPSP locations, the Auspice has been an independent organisation (non-service delivery) with capacity to understand the work and support the Backbone team with expertise such as research or evaluation.

## **Contact Us**

To express interest in a position of the Leadership Group or on a Working Group to assist address a specific issue, or to find out more about the SPSP initiative, please contact our Start-Up Backbone Team:

Debbie King            0400 588 606

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**We look forward to hearing from you !**