

# Stronger Places, Stronger People Gladstone



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Start-Up Backbone Team

# Stronger Places, Stronger People

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- Stronger Places, Stronger People (SPSP) is an Australian Government initiative
- The Australian Government has partnered with State and Territory Governments to support 10 demonstration communities around Australia
- In Queensland SPSP is jointly funded by:
  - Australian Government - Department of Social Services (DSS) and
  - Queensland Government - Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors
- There are 3 SPSP Communities in Queensland: Gladstone, Rockhampton and Logan
- Gladstone's initial introduction to SPSP was in 2019 through stakeholder meetings with DSS and consultants Collaboration for Impact and Price Waterhouse Cooper's Indigenous Consulting Business (PIC)

SPSP is a long-term social change endeavour to disrupt the cycle of disadvantage

# Eligibility

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## 1) Markers of Entrenched Disadvantage

- Gladstone has traditionally been recognised as a wealthy community due to high average incomes and industry investment in social infrastructure and community assets

However, shifts in recent years have seen growing disadvantage in our community

## 2) Promising Degree of Community Readiness

- Over the years, with support of key government and corporate stakeholders, our community have identified shared aspirations for the future:

Gladstone Region Vision 2035 (2015) and Changing Lives, Changing Communities (2019)

- Many local examples demonstrate our capacity for collaboration to achieve shared goals including for Domestic and Family Violence, Mental Health, Philip Street Precinct

# Growing Disadvantage

- ↑ Individuals on government payments (DSS 2015-2020)
- ↑ Families with children on welfare or low incomes (DSS 2015-2020)
- ↑ Developmental vulnerability of our children starting school (AEDC 2012-2018)
- ↑ Children subject to protective orders (CYJMA 2015-2020)

Above population growth rates

Above Queensland averages

Despite the hard work of our social sector, demand on the sector keeps increasing

There is a growing recognition that we need to do things differently if we want change

# Collective Impact

SPSP is a place-based, community-led, change initiative based on a Collective Impact model

## 5 Key Elements

1. Shared agenda = clear direction
2. Mutually reinforcing activity = aligned actions
3. Communication = relationships + trust
4. Backbone = resources + momentum
5. Measurement = monitoring + evaluation

Collective Impact is a model created by John Kania and Mark Kramer of FSG Consulting in 2011

# Systems Change

- takes a big picture view of what is working and what is not so that we can focus our energy in the right places
- addresses complex issues which require all stakeholders at the table to problem solve
- requires all voices to inform the work including our community members experiencing disadvantage
- explores the conditions that hold disadvantage in place and identifies enablers that maintain the adverse status quo
- focuses on causal factors for prevention and early intervention
- is not about program delivery
- challenges our approach at all levels
- requires us to think and work together differently

# SPSP Gladstone

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What does this actually mean for Gladstone?

SPSP provides

- a dedicated team and resources (backbone) to drive momentum
- a central mechanism to unpack and examine what is happening
- an easier way for all stakeholders to come together and work together
- equity amongst stakeholders to effectively create and influence change
- ongoing measurement to check that we are going in the right direction
- real-time data that is specific to Gladstone LGA and the distinct communities in our region
- ongoing opportunity for community to tell us what they are experiencing
- connection to other communities to share what is working

# A Starting Place

- To disrupt the cycle of disadvantage requires a starting point eg the child - pre-birth to school age
- To understand what is happening for the child we must consider the wellbeing of parents and families
- Relevant issues include alcohol & other drugs, domestic & family violence, mental health and poverty
- Data will drive efforts including quantitative and qualitative data - statistics and stories
- Variables will be considered eg the characteristics of in-migration statistics and it's influence on trends



# Strengths Based

While our deficits help us to understand where we are now and where we have come from, in order to see where we are going, SPSP in Gladstone will be strengths based.

*An example from Logan Together*



# Current Status

- A Working Group has invested volunteer time over 15 months to secure initial SPSP funding for Gladstone
- Current, region specific, data collection and review to identify current crisis points
- Review of previous community consultations and aspirations to compare with current experience
- Leadership Group appointed to carry the work forward
- Discussions occurring with a potential auspice to receive the funds locally
- Workshops and consultations with government, sector and community representatives
- Working with GRC Community Engagement Team and discussing alignments with Philip Street

# Next Steps

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- Community engagement – aligned with other consultations to reduce consultation fatigue
- Analyse data and quantify variables to provide a baseline for measurement
- Establish working groups as required to focus on specific issues
- By end April 2021 the SPSP Leadership Group, on behalf of the Gladstone community, will present a proposal to Government to partner for the next 3 years

This will include:

- A data report to detail Gladstone's most critical focus areas and current performance against recognised social wellbeing indicators
- The story of Gladstone's journey to this point in time, demonstrating our readiness to engage as one collective