

Terms of Reference for the National Place-Based Advisory Group August 2011

1. Purpose

To advise the Minister on initiatives that will support the development of effective local solutions to achieve social and economic participation outcomes, with a particular focus on the very long term unemployed, jobless families and teen parents.

2. Background

Locational disadvantage and place-based initiatives

The Government is implementing place-based initiatives in ten locations with high rates of entrenched disadvantage:

- Playford (SA)
- Hume (Vic)
- Shepparton (Vic)
- Burnie (Tas)
- Bankstown (NSW)
- Wyong (NSW)
- Shellharbour (NSW)
- Rockhampton (Qld)
- Logan (Qld)
- Kwinana (WA)

Good governance of place-based initiatives

In 2010 the Australian Social Inclusion Board published its report on Governance models for Location Based Initiatives. This sets out five key principles for the implementation and management of place-based initiatives.

1. A clear connection between economic and social strategies;
2. A framework for providing integration of effort across governments;
3. A meaningful devolution that allows significant and meaningful local involvement in determining the issues and solutions;
4. Capacity development at both the local level and in government, without which greater community engagement or devolution of responsibility will be impossible; and
5. Funding, measurement and accountability mechanisms that are designed to support the long term, whole of government and community aims for the initiative, rather than attempting to build an initiative around unsuitable measurement and accountability.

(Governance Models for Location Based Initiatives, Australian Social Inclusion Board, *Commonwealth of Australia 2011*)

These principles informed the place-based measures announced as part of the Building Australia's Future Workforce package in the 2011-12 Budget, and are the foundation for the development of advice by the Advisory Group on successful delivery of place-based initiatives.

2012-13 Budget Estimates

Committee: Community Affairs Committee

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Tabled by: RAY GAVIN DHS

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3. Role and Operation of the Advisory Group

The Advisory Group will operate as a sub-group of the Australian Social Inclusion Board.

The role of the Advisory Group is to provide advice to the Minister for Human Services on the management and implementation of the place-based participation initiatives, including:

- best practice approaches to boost engagement, capability and workforce participation through place-based initiatives in disadvantaged communities;
- effective involvement by all levels of government in place-based initiatives;
- local economic development strategies and engagement with the business sector in place-based approaches, particularly in regional Australia;
- advancing place-based approaches through philanthropic partnerships;
- support for the not-for-profit sector in place-based service delivery;
- research and evaluation of place-based approaches; and
- criteria for the assessment of expressions of interest for grant funding under the Local Solutions fund.

The Minister for Human Services will outline priorities for the Advisory Group prior to its first meeting. From time to time the Minister may identify further specific tasks and priorities for the Advisory Group, which will be agreed in consultation with the Chair.

The Advisory Group will meet at least quarterly.

Face to face meetings will be held in a location determined by the Chair in consultation with other members and the Office of the Minister for Human Services.

Advisory Group meetings by teleconference may be convened as agreed by the Chair. These meetings will be reported in the same way as face-to-face meetings.

Following an initial face-to-face meeting it is expected that the majority of work of the Advisory Group will be undertaken via teleconference and email.

Advisory Group members may be given access to Commonwealth information which is confidential and/or not for circulation outside of the Advisory Group. Members have a responsibility to adhere to any non-disclosure requirements attached to specific documents or information provided to members, or as otherwise directed by the Chair of the Advisory Group.

Advisory Group members are required to comply with the Australian Public Service Code of Conduct.

4. Membership

Members of the Advisory Group will be appointed by the Minister for Human Services.

The Chair of the Advisory Group will be an ex officio member nominated by the Minister from the Australian Social Inclusion Board.

Members will be appointed based on skills and experience relevant to advancing the development, implementation and evaluation of place-based initiatives, and will be drawn from business, philanthropy, academia and the not-for-profit sector.

An Australian Government official from the Department of Human Services, state or territory government official and a local government official will be appointed as ex officio members of the Advisory Group.

The Advisory Group will have no more than ten members, excluding the Chair.

Appointments will be for an initial term of 12 months.

Membership of the National Place-Based Advisory Group

1. Chair: Tony Nicholson
2. Deputy Chair: Catriona Noble
3. David Thompson – CEO, Jobs Australia
4. Lin Hatfield Dodds – National Director, Uniting Care Australia
5. Narelle Clay – CEO, Southern Youth and Family Services
6. Deb Nelson – Managing Director, Yarn'n Aboriginal Employment Services
7. Mark Considine – Dean of Arts, University of Melbourne
8. Barry Sandison – Deputy Secretary, Participation, Families and Older Australians, Department of Human Services
9. Gill Callister – Secretary, Victorian Department of Human Services
10. Adrian Beresford-Wylie – CEO, Australian Local Government Association
11. Vacant (Tim Gartrell, CEO Generation One resigned his NPBAG membership on 14 May 2012)

5. Secretariat

Secretariat to the Advisory Group will be provided by the Department of Human Services.

The Secretariat will make arrangements for booking and payment for travel and accommodation for Advisory Group meetings.

The Department of Human Services will meet the cost of economy class travel, accommodation and out of pocket expenses associated with face to face meetings and other approved activities undertaken by Advisory Group members.

Sitting fees do not apply.

6. Reporting

The Advisory Group will report to the Minister for Human Services.

The Chair of the Advisory Group will issue a Communiqué outlining the outcomes of Advisory Group deliberations within ten days of its meetings.

Outcomes of Advisory Group meetings, including any advice provided to the Minister for Social Inclusion, will be tabled by the Chair at the following meeting of the Australian Social Inclusion Board.

The Minister for Human Services will report on the work of the Advisory Group to other Ministers.

The Australian Government official appointed to the Advisory Group will be responsible for reporting outcomes of the Advisory Group to the Place-Based Measures Officials Working Group and the Building Australia's Future Workforce Implementation and Evaluation Steering Committee.