

The [Northern Rivers Regional Social Plan](#) was prepared by the Northern Rivers Social Development Council (NRSDC) and Regional Development Australia (RDA) Northern Rivers and launched in early 2014.

The plan is informed by:

- community and stakeholder engagement including a wellbeing survey (sample 1200), community workshops, vox pops and an integration workshop with service providers and government agencies
- an extensive [Regional Social Profile](#) and data set
- review of the local, State and Federal government policy and planning context.

The Regional Social Plan identifies 13 desired future outcomes – taking into account the interconnections between social, economic and environmental systems and their impacts on people, families and communities across the Northern Rivers.

In February 2015 the [Regional Social Plan Stewardship Group](#) was established to support and manage implementation of the plan. Membership started with NRSDC, RDA and organisations that nominated as implementation partners for

### The Stewardship Group:

- is focused on identifying the best opportunities to act collectively to improve community wellbeing, including attracting and facilitating investment for positive social impact in the Northern Rivers
- considers how it's activities can or should link with existing groups and networks in the region
- is committed to working collaboratively (see principles on page 2)

the plan before it was launched in early 2014

(CRANES, The Family Centre, Northern NSW Local Health District, North Coast Community Housing Company, North Coast NSW Medicare Local, Nortec and Tursa).

The Stewardship Group is using a snowball method to identify and include additional organisations with interest and capacity to participate and contribute. **Any organisation can nominate to join the Stewardship Group.** It now has 24 community and government organisations in its membership (see page 2). [Terms of Reference](#) are available on the [Regional Social Plan website](#).

### Desired future outcomes identified in the plan

1. A region where our children and young people reach their potential
2. A region where people with disabilities reach their fullest potential
3. A region that closes the gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people
4. A region where people are healthy
5. A region where people participate in meaningful employment and education
6. A region of appropriate and affordable housing where no one has to be homeless
7. A region of people who value and enjoy our unique natural, arts and cultural assets
8. A region where people can get around easily
9. A region with sustainable, viable, community assets
10. A vibrant, innovative regional economy
11. A region with affordable, safe, local food
12. A clean energy future for our region
13. A region with integrated, accessible services

### Key action areas – opportunities for working collectively

Each of the desired future outcomes in the Regional Social Plan is supported by potential measures, partners and strategies. At its March 2015 meeting the Stewardship Group considered this detailed information, along with information about changes in the service delivery, funding and policy context in the region, and identified the following key action areas to focus its work and implementation plan.

- Improving outcomes for children and young people
- A collective approach to domestic and family violence, including prevention
- Affordable housing investment and supply

The Stewardship Group is preparing an implementation plan that uses a results based accountability framework to identify the results it is aiming to support in these key action areas, population indicators, partners who could contribute and proposals for collective action to commence after June 2015.

### Engagement

The Stewardship Group's implementation plan will outline how the group will engage and include others in its work. This will include:

- a communications strategy to update the community as its work progresses
- a working group on engaging Aboriginal communities in implementation of the Regional Social Plan
- identifying where existing engagement and planning activities in the region can inform/ link with the group's work
- identifying where additional input and engagement from stakeholders is required to inform the group, its decisions and ongoing review of its activities, including engaging people with disabilities.

### Collaboration principles for the Stewardship Group

The following principles guide how the Stewardship Group does its work.

- Acknowledge the tensions of working collectively in a competitive funding environment.
- Work to develop shared goals.
- Being clear and respectful about individual and shared intellectual property.
- Allow space for organisations to progress their own work.
- Communicate within and between member organisations.
- Be transparent about decisions and make information available to the community.
- Support shared measurement of impact.
- Promote access and participation – services, planning, design, delivery, community life.
- Understand and collectively influence positive systemic change.
- Pursue opportunities for strengths-based work and early intervention.

### Member organisations – Northern Rivers Regional Social Plan Stewardship Group (25 May 2015)

Aboriginal Affairs, NSW Department of Education and Communities  
Australian Government Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet  
Clarence River Women's Refuge and Outreach Services Inc  
CRANES Community Support Programs  
FSG Australia  
Interrelate  
Local Community Services Association (LCSA)  
Nortec  
North Coast Community Housing Company  
North Coast NSW Medicare Local  
Northern Rivers Social Development Council  
NSW Aboriginal Land Council  
NSW Department of Education and Communities  
NSW Department of Family and Community Services (FACS)  
NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet  
NSW Health Northern NSW Local Health District  
On Track Community Programs  
Regional Development Australia (RDA) Northern Rivers  
Rekindling the Spirit  
The Family Centre  
Transport for NSW  
Tursa Employment & Training  
Tweed Shire Council  
YWCA NSW