

1.1 What would a partnership between CSOs and the government that achieves outcomes for Australians being supported by the community sector look like?

Funding the full cost and not relying on volunteer labour and donations for successful operation of a project. Allowing a portion of funding to properly support back office and digital communications.

1.2 How can CSOs and government streamline the sharing of information, particularly through utilising technology to effectively engage, distribute, share, influence and inform in a timely and efficient manner?

Using plain language.

1.3 How can government ensure the community sector, including service users, and those not able to access services, have an opportunity to contribute to program design without imposing significant burdens?

Not sure

2.1 What would adequate and flexible funding look like?

Sometimes a project plan needs adjustment as it is implemented, but some funding assessments of outcomes/outputs and budgets won't necessarily match for reporting purposes.

2.2 What administrative and overhead costs are not being considered in current grant funding?

Reporting time for all the statutory requirements. The need to use expert advice in certain circumstances.

2.3 How are rising operational costs impacting the delivery of community services?

A lot

2.4 What have been your experiences with and reflections on the supplementation and change to indexation?

no experience here

2.5 How can CSOs and the department work together to determine where funds are needed most to ensure equitable and responsive distribution of funds?

Workshop discussions perhaps with more than one group seeking the same funds for similar projects. There could be ways of collaborating, or getting an understanding about where the most unmet need is required.

Competitive tendering has been the undoing of a collaborative sector. I think we would all like to put our energies into doing good things rather than competing with each other.

That's not to say organisations don't collaborate at all, but it is another kind of collaboration more like a joint venture.

2.6 How can government streamline reporting requirements, including across multiple grants, to reduce administrative burden on CSOs?

Use the audited annual financial report. Or make it half yearly report.

3.1 What length grants are CSOs seeking to provide certainty and stability for ongoing service delivery?

3 years minimum for ongoing stability - other project specific grants can have shorter time limits.

3.2 What timeframes should the government aim for, at a minimum, to provide final outcomes on grant variations/extensions before the current grant ceases?

Not quite sure what you are asking. If you are asking how long should an organisation wait to be given an answer, it will depend. But say, 2 weeks.

3.3 What funding flexibility do CSOs require to enable service delivery and innovation?

The ability to pivot when a better plan emerges. Some work develops organically.

3.4 What flexibility is required by CSOs in acquittal processes to support and encourage sector innovation?

Easy to read forms

3.5 How can government improve the variation process, with consideration that CSOs must demonstrate alignment with the grant agreement and provide evidence of value for money outcomes?

not sure

4.1 How can the government ensure opportunities are available for new and emerging organisations to access funding?

Listen to their story or stories before dealing with all the form filling.

For example, ILC grant processes spend the first part of the document on eligibility criteria. One misstep here and the actual project doesn't get looked at.

For really good projects, there has to be a way to get the idea across and then work out the technical eligibility.

4.2 What programs, supports and information are already available for smaller CSOs to help build capacity of the organisation? Are these working?

Don't know of any that about about capacity beyond staff training.

4.3 How could larger CSOs support smaller CSOs? What are the barriers to providing this support?

Professional and business confidence issues. Use of IP? - both ways. Not necessarily reliable or it's patchy

5.1 What is your experience with and reflections on place-based funding approaches?

They can work but need coordination that is not necessarily funded.

5.2 What innovative approaches could be implemented to ensure the grant funding reaches trusted community organisations with strong local links?

Do links have to be local? We work on a national basis and part of our work is building those links in the first place. (Think this used to be called community development).

5.3 Which areas do you consider have duplicative funding or gaps you think need to be addressed, and what is the evidence?

Not sure

5.4 Where there is a community-led change initiative, could shared accountability to community and funders (government) strengthen service delivery?

No opinion here - it depends.

6.1 If any, what are the problems or challenges you think have been overlooked?

No

6.2 What other solutions or changes could also be considered?

Easy Read versions of grant information is really good but when you get to the actual form filling, it is a nightmare.

6.3 What does success look like?

A focus on outcomes, not outputs (deliverables).