

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

Our charity finds the description used by government of "contributing to the community" too narrow and as such it often excludes us from obtaining government support and grants, though we are a community based organisation.

Our goal is to rescue, rehabilitate and rehome horses - that can't be done with the strong community support we have, but animal welfare organisations aren't included in the general "contribution to the community" description.

A partnership between charities such as ours, 100% volunteer-run and the government, could see government giving guidance on legislation governing our industry/community sector, as well as providing financial assistance to help our volunteers spend time with us.

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

The cost in obtaining quotes to be able to complete the application process.

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?

Three months

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

Whilst our organisation's goal is to rescue, rehabilitate and rehome horses, our work provides a great deal of benefit to our volunteers - they are the community we live in! The community we live in also donates to us to encourage and assist our work. In government grant eligibility, however, there is no link between organisations such as ours that provide a benefit to the community, whilst carrying out it's work that is animal welfare focussed.

The benefit of Equine Therapy, whether it be by volunteering with us or by a community visit to us on open days or by appointment, cannot be underestimated.

The welfare of animals is generally a core human value and rescue organisations, regardless of the animals they benefit, are run by and benefit the community in which they operate but are left out of Grant eligibility.

The Australian Veterinary Association in their paper dated 23 February 2023 entitled Animal Welfare and Human Wellbeing stated: "The One Welfare concept recognizes that animal welfare and human wellbeing are interdependent, and this interaction between the two needs to be considered within social contexts and professional ethical frameworks. Complex social issues, such as domestic violence and homelessness, animal hoarding and animal abuse, impact both the welfare of animals and the wellbeing of humans..."

However, the descriptions used to enable qualifications for community-based grants only focus on organisations whose sole purpose is to be run for the community. Whereas, our organisation benefits the community while carrying out its work for animal welfare.

An expansion in the description of community benefit in Grant eligibility is needed please.

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

Currently the only support we receive in running our CSO is from the ACNC.

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

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

There is a definite gap in community based organisations such as animal welfare charities being able to apply for Grant funding.

We are seen to benefit the horses only and this is definitely not the case. We most certainly also benefit our volunteers (who come from the local community) and the wider community through interaction with animals who have been abused but recovered, when they visit us. But for us to provide facilities where we could allow a greater involvement by our community, we need more funding.

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

Narrow definitions in Grant eligibility.

6.2 What other solutions or changes could also be considered?

Broadening the definition of community benefit to include core human values such as animal welfare.

6.3 What does success look like?

A broadening of the definition of community benefit and acceptance of the role played in community welfare by organisations that focus on animal welfare.