

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

People from all cultural backgrounds and demographics are represented. Older people always seem to be left out of, or not given the appropriate consideration regarding channels of engagement, having the opportunity to participate in community consultation activities. Online does not suit everyone!

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?

Provide a diverse range of channels for people to access information and take it to them - not expect people to get info via social media or online.
Build thinking into aged care and in schools - its a life cycle consideration.

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?

Use traditional methods of communications, work with health provides and Centrelink to help distribute information to those that need it.

2.1 What would adequate and flexible funding look like?

Providing real funding opportunities - more to fewer things not the same bucket of money for many things - this cuts the ability of community projects to really make a difference.
Support the growth of existing programmes that are working rather than reinventing things.

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

Skills, or lack of, skills of recipients. Support that is needed to help people do what they need to do re: acquittals is just not there in most cases.
People are given money but not the professional development support.

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

Enormously. I have been in situations with organisations that I volunteer for, who can not actually deliver on what finding was received for.

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

N/A

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?

Match with government priorities and stick with those through election cycles. How that can be done I do not know.

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

Have a central support unit. Agree on consistent reporting measures.

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

5 years at a min.

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?

5 - 10 years.