

Organisation name

Waikerie Rotary Club

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

As a community focused support group Waikerie Rotary club has direct root contact with all community sectors and have a proud reputation of assisting local groups and associations with funding and manpower support for projects necessary for them to continue to provide facilities and opportunities for their organisations.

We raise funds and manage the distribution of these funds to the areas that we feel are most in need and prioritise the distribution accordingly. We are totally not for profit and continue to support all sectors of the community and comit thousands of hours and incidental expenses from our own pockets toward supporting the broader community.

I would propose that the government could match our fundraising dollar for dollar annually and increase our ability to support our communities.

We are fully audited and there is no confusion as to where the funds are coming from and where they are distributed, not one cent of our funds raised are spent on expenses to members and 100% of funds donated or raised goes directly back to the community.

We are a group of local people from the community and know exactly where the funds are most needed and allocate accordingly. We, through our fundraising, donations and volunteer labour have saved the local councils thousands of dollars.

If you take the time to consider this proposal we can provide evidence and testimonials of the support we have continued to provide over our 60 years as proud local support providers.

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?

My opening paragraph has provided most of the details.

Annual audits and weekly minutes would provide all the detail necessary to monitor the process.

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?

We are a community organisation with an internal structure comprised of portfolios managed by a person and supported by members allocated to each portfolio according on how many people are needed to support the particular portfolio. Each manager gives a report on the portfolio, active projects and proposed projects at a weekly meeting of all club members.

We would allocate a portfolio manager to communicate with authorities to structure the processes necessary to meet any criteria necessary. This ensures there is only one person to communicate with while in effect the whole club has contributed.

2.1 What would adequate and flexible funding look like?

The club would have full discretion of the funding allocation as they have for the past 60 years. The club also provides a conduit for govt to place funding in areas it feels need support when the occasion arises.

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

The method I am proposing ensures there are no costs for any time or administration of funds.

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

These costs in a lot of cases are borne by members and drain their commitment when they become significant.

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

supplementation and changes to indexation can vary widely depending on the specific context and perspectives of individuals or groups affected by these policies. Some people may see supplementation as a necessary means to provide essential support to those in need, while others may view it as a burden on public finances or as an inadequate solution to address systemic issues of poverty or income inequality. In my experience proper management of any funds being distributed is far more effective than blanket hand outs.

As a community group that assists across all community sectors we way up heavily the best distribution of funds within the total community and allocate with a best outcome approach.

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?

How can a department situated in the middle of a building working 12 hour days decide on what communities need...
Support a non paid group or organisation of comitted volounteers with a long history and a charter that is committed to bettering their communities and the world and trust they will provide.

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

The infrastructure is within our organisation. Form partnerships with ours and similiar groups, build trust!

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

Matched funding doubles community groups effectiveness, shortens time lines and rewards effort.

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?

Be prepared to listen to and work with the organisation as their is no black and white formula that can allow for labour shortages, stock delays or natural disasters.

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

Matched Dollar for dollar raised is simple, pay up!
If funding has been granted then forward it in a timely manner, now that would be innovative.

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

I think you are filling up space with this question.

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?

When a builder quotes a job he allows for variations within the quote.
When you apply for a government grant there is no provision for variations so there will always be dispute!
Govt could allow community groups to include a quote at an hourly rate of non paid volunteer hours actually committed to projects and realise what a good deal they are actually getting by supporting these CSO's.

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

The Government needs a more enterprenerial approach to emerging innovative ideas. They need to look more at projected outcomes from ideas and the effect they could have on regions rather than looking at the region as what it was or always has been.

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

Not aware, so maybe better education of available supports is necessary.

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

As described earlier in our case we support the smaller CSO's with funding for projects and in some cases labour to carry out projects. We could do more if we were supported financially with matching funding.

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

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

Talk with your Rotary groups, lions, apex and any not for profit organisations that don't have a paid management structure as you know they are in it for the love.

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

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

Absolutely!

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

Diversification of regions.

As regions mature and technology advances there are swings away from the core and extension opportunities that become evident. These need to be acted on with a view to assisting regions to diversify as trends change.

6.2 What other solutions or changes could also be considered?

Zoning and land use in regions have to be more flexible. In order to keep regions relevant we need to be able to utilise land for what the market is looking for.

Example: In the aftermath of the covid pandemic there has been a huge demand for regionalisation. People want to move to remoter areas. In our region, WSAikerie, we are land locked by Horticultural and agricultural land and don't have allotments available for housing development. Sounds simple enough doesn't it. Well the plot thickens. New innovations in farm practice have meant that crops are mechanically harvested with great savings to labour costs which in turn converts to less jobs on the farms. There has also been a swing in the economy of scale. Better equipment and automation mean that farmers with small allotments have been bought up by larger farmers as they have retired result, less jobs. The outcome of these means the youth of our regions have to go to other areas for work and the lack of seasonal work has meant that where we once had population swells during harvest periods we no longer do. The lower population has resulted in less small business opportunities, result less jobs.

The solution is simple: we need to open land up for the people who want out of the cities to allow room for the people who want jobs in the cities. We need to develop tourism opportunities which will attract people to our region replacing the seasonal workers we once had and this will create more jobs. Demand creates demand, open land for housing by rezoning. Open larger farm land for bigger farms also creates more jobs. There is a solution but not enough room to lay it all out here. Call me

6.3 What does success look like?

Regions where your kids can be educated, find work and your grand parents are nearby.

This is a good start and it all starts with diversification within regions in what they offer but without population these regions are strangling. Give people what they want open up regions make room in the cities for people who want to be there.