

Organisation name

Strath Neighbourhood Centre

Email

[REDACTED]

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

Plain, easy to read language.
Less requirement to provide to the cent budgeting.
streamlined reporting options.
one point of knowledgeable contact.
shorter application, review and approval process.
extended notice for expected funding opportunities (with guidelines available).
opportunity for non specific funding, to enable direct response to need.
less focus on professional based application, with focus on intent and genuine evidence.
funding surplus to roll over, not forced to spend or have to be refunded.

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?

remove the barriers of communication, provide a single point of access (case manager), with real time communication.
reduce wait times of responses.
provide cost free technology and support to CSO's.

Remove the governments speak from reporting, make it simple.

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?

engage local CSO's to undertake community awareness and consultation, with genuine support.
through CSO's, provide the community with regular access to a case manager.

2.1 What would adequate and flexible funding look like?

Equality and equity in funding is essential.

How funding to small, new and developing CSO's is determined needs review.

The preference given to established CSO's, with long term operation, connections, resources, and unconscious bias toward new centres, impacts significantly on fair and equitable distribution of funds.

Funding should be as described "Flexible" with CSO's able to make decisions based on identified needs. Current funding models require program based applications, long wait times for fund approvals and release.

Funds need to be available to use to meet emerging and identified needs, now, not projected into the future.

Adequate funds could be assessed through a simple model of needs based activity.

I.E. a CSO is able to demonstrate evidenced based volunteer support, to a given value, flexible funding may be a percentage of the evidenced value (volunteer based value).

Example: CSO has \$250,000 volunteer based value.

Flexible funding could be 30% of the volunteer value.

This model would provide access to \$75,000 for the discretionary (audited) use of the CSO.

The model could be modified to meet regional, demographic or special considerations.

this type of funding will mean, CSO's have capacity to build and respond to immediate community needs.

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

from our experience as a NFP volunteer based organisation, limitations exist where compliance is a cost of doing business.

Example: WHS cost, first aid compliance, IT security, CSO staff wages support.

General running costs.

Essential equipment replacement costs.

Organisation specific training needs.

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

The focus on keeping our centre open is impacting on how we respond to the identified needs of our community's.

The increasing costs and limited funding opportunities, are impacting the quality of our service's.

The phrase "running on the smell of an oily rag" does not describe this centre or other other of similar position. Our situation is more like "just the rag, no oil".

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

unable to comment

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?

Discuss genuine need with CSO's.
Provide on site consultation with CSO's and Department, to provide genuine, real time assessment of the CSO's.

as previously commented, determine genuine need, not professionally prepared need.
Make funding allocation to under resourced and developing' CSO's, with adequate department support.

Provision for non specific funds for developing CSO's would aid in establishment and growth of volunteer based CSO's.

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

make it simple.

what has been spent, how it has been spent.

Reduce the requirement to report outcomes, and participant feed back, as these are not always appropriate or available.

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

3 years with option, with appropriate effective controls.

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

discretionary spending, to target emerging needs.

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

keep it simple.

Prove what was spent,

Why it was spent,

remove the need to spend every cent, if program is complete with surplus, then allow surplus to support other areas of the CSO's operations (with limitations).

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?

this question is too complex to answer on this page.

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

reduce the need for professionally written grant applications.
Focus on the emerging CSO's genuine impact on community, not projected or embellished achievements.

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

the use of plain language would be helpful.

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

be supportive, not competitive/protective of larger CSO market status.

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

negative.
smaller CSO used to meet larger CSO needs, without fair and equitable returns or ongoing support.

lack of recognition of the smaller CSO input.

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

on the ground case managers, from the department, not contracted CSO..

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

require more information of intent to provide considered response.

6.3 What does success look like?

connecting with community