

**Organisation name**

[REDACTED]

**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?**

The Neighbourhood House sector would be best represented by our overarching association, NHVic who represent over 420 houses. This way information can be shared and filtered through to the various LGAs.

A meaningful partnership in my opinion, would require clear and transparent communication through regular consultation and meetings, by creating 'smart' goals and the ability to adapt to changing needs, demographics and timelines as required.

There is much that can be achieved if we share the same goals.

**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?**

I believe send out a monthly update using digital platforms such as "MailChimp" provide an opportunity to include interesting photographs, add in links and ways to engage organisations to remain informed.

**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?**

Contact the main associations and listen to the gatekeepers who are often very well informed of what the community sector is experiencing or needing. Always provide opportunity for service users to engage and provide evaluation feed back as necessary.

**2.1 What would adequate and flexible funding look like?**

Encourage multiple organisations to group together to apply for funding.

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

The cost to hire someone to provide additional expertise when a program expands.

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

It is making it harder to make ends meet, leading to an increase in charges which is sometimes creating a barrier for those most in need.

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

It is not in line with the real increases in the cost of living. Our funding has also not increased over a very long time. Wages, LSL, superannuation costs, tax, etc have all increased.

**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?**

Encourage the Neighbourhood House sector to continue to share their amazing stories of community engagement that leads to numerous positive outcomes.

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

Continue to let the main association handle the reporting requirements via our annual survey.

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

I am sorry I have run out of time to answer all of your questions. This survey is simply too long.

