

Organisation name

Renovation Insider

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?

A collaborative discussion to find common ground to address our wider community issues.

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?

Pick up the phone for a conversation to seek understanding rather than just to seek a response.

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?

It seems that our community service organisations are not networked but remain silos of information struggling to survive. With an intention to truly encourage our CSO's to be their greatest benefit will require sharing and collaborating.

2.1 What would adequate and flexible funding look like?

It is completely possible to operate in an open book application where funding is related to the actual costs. However I suspect that there will be a necessary period of building trust required before we get to that stage of relationship. Recently we have declined service to a government entity (DV Assist) as their process was unable to allow for compliant and reasonable responses.

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

The duplication of effort in writing grants to fit into a pre-designed template.

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

The cost of supporting government in necessary service areas DV assist are being withdrawn as the costs of business. DV assist are struggling to find services to secure DV victims homes yet our service has had to withdraw as it is inefficient and uneconomic to continue.

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

NA

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?

Not difficult perhaps have a collaborative conversation with the intention to seek common understanding.

Current conversations are seeking a response and as a consequence new innovative services are unable to be considered because they do not fit into an existing box.

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

NA

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

Why couldn't shouldn't grants be a perpetual offer subject to the existing checks and balances. We have observed that the grant funding cycle prevents CSO's from thinking and working on longer term strategies "solve the housing crisis" because they are drawn away to seek the next cycle of funding.

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?

That sounds like a government question. What is a reasonable response timeframe? Clearly this is not a metric that is measured at present.

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

I am not so sure that it is a flexibility that is required it might be more a trust in the relationship to work through the issues that will arise. If there is a trusting and supportive relationship then there will be the ability to develop innovation. No trust then no innovation.

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

NA

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?

The concept of variations is just a no go. Simply there is not the trust available in the relationship and the default setting is to say no.

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

Have a conversation or perhaps a grant funding facilitator so that new organisations can have a chance of meeting the criteria.

If you had a community minded not for profit business that wanted to solve the housing crisis how would that business get the necessary government attention or support?

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

We are unaware of any of these. No they are not working.

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

Fundamentally we are all in silos and working in isolation. There is no incentive for CSO's to work together as the combative nature of competitive grant process sees CSO's as competing entities.

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

NA

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

We need local area experts (perhaps the local politicians used to serve this purpose) to network and make the connections. It isn't happening today.

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

The Federal/ State funding cycle is absolutely an area where there is duplication of costs/ funding and the evidence is abundant.

Have a look at the funding allocated to some major "housing" projects and see where the money has gone for how many homes delivered? Defence Housing Australia, National Housing Rental Affordability Scheme, and the Territory Intervention as some examples where enormous amounts of funding are provided and no tangible change or benefit has been delivered.

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

What?

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

Our catastrophic breakdown of interpersonal relationships in our community. Reflected in:-
2nd highest rates of adult depression in the world
Loneliness epidemic
90% of aged care residents showing signs of clinical depression

6.2 What other solutions or changes could also be considered?

What if we made the assumption that our economics were answered and then have a longer form conversation about relationships and the topics that matter rather than the exclusive focus on economics.

We are part of a world community and we could absolutely take some leadership in addressing the things that matter.

6.3 What does success look like?

We rebuild our community from a single household at a time. We have neighbours that we know and respect. Within our community diversity is encouraged and some are allowed to foster the survival of our species.