Name or Pseudonym:

Celia J

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

Taking into consideration needs as informed by those living with disability, carers and lived experience individuals to shape the requirements.
More actual input and co-design in outcomes and solutions rather than imposing ideas on others without proper input from those who need the support

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 an open portal for feedback, suggestions and solutions that can work with key words to provide trends on requirements
Regular updates
More grassroots work

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?

Similar to this process - provide opportunity for open conversation and dialogue but also work on smaller incremental changes.
Focus on more support for prevention, sustaining and recovery phases
Remove bureaucrats and politicians from the process
Find ways to provide support without it being reactive as a result of election promises

2.1 What would adequate and flexible funding look like?

Funding that is based on real needs, taking into consideration different requirements for different areas
also provide significantly better support for psychosocial support, carers and find better ways to work with peer workers and those with lived experience

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

The allowance is not realistic, taking into consideration the cost of compliance and time taken to ensure compliance.
Set a realistic allowance for overheads

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

Wages, cost of living and areas such as fuel expenses are not captured in current models.
Service providers have to compete with those who can pay more to retain people, yet funding keeps on being limited

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

Inadequate and not proactive

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?

Open dialogue
Remove politics and bureaucrats from the conversations

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

Create a platform where information can be used and replicated

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

Longer grant terms and improved funding will improve retention and outcomes
5 years would be better

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?

2 years

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

The current process does not actually allow for innovation as the demand exceeds the available funding and thus budgets have to be conservative
Does not allow for innovation or excellence in the set up

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

Improve lessons learned and sharing

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?

Provide better linkage in the application of value for money against individual, community and overall outcomes

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

Create a start up ecosphere
Provide opportunity for funding for alternative/novel solutions

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

Limited and not seen to be working

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

Competition
Demand exceeding supply
Both cap the ability for practical support, growth and mentoring

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

Does not seem to work well in remote areas, given the additional cost and time needed to build trust in communities
No allowance for smaller number of people to be helped at a higher cost

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

More open dialogue
Be open to learning
Stop focusing on the politics

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

Metro areas as there are multiple providers

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

Trust in the system is needed first in remote communities

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

How best to provide more funding whilst still keeping a strong grant process in place

Stop focusing on character counts in grants but look at the fundamentals of the need, the current impact and future legacy

6.2 What other solutions or changes could also be considered?

How to work better in challenging locations and communities
Better co-design
Better learnings

6.3 What does success look like?

Being able to win the funding in the first place
There is not enough funding allocated to meet the demand