

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

projects that have a longer life span that 12-18mths.

govt needs to return to providing project delivery support to locally based NFP's that know and understand the needs of the local region/s.

govt needs to better understand the demands on community NFP sectors.

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?

streamline the reporting of information online portals

share outcomes and successful projects

install better phone systems, and call back systems, use humans to answer queries

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?

provide apps with easy feedback

2.1 What would adequate and flexible funding look like?

actual costs of delivery - including % towards office rental, staff salaries + on costs, insurances, etc

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

contribution to % rental of office premises in order to provide community support, % management & staff salaries with add on costs, % of insurances etc.

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

rising staff costs & add on costs are impacting
rising insurances, and rental costs
projects that are short term do not allow for proper planning

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

has not been enough

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?

return to community based NFP's for delivery of services

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

utilise pre-populated online portals

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

suggest 3yr - 4 yrs min

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?

6-12mths prior

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

to allow for crisis funding increases eg , covid, disasters
replacement of equipment

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

allow for \$ % innovation grant % in every project for the NFP to test and suggest new ways of doing the project delivery

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?

listen to the NFP
have more staff that can listen and hold online meetings for feedback
NFP's make \$1 stretch to \$10 through its relationships, community networks and people power, staff loyalty working on half rates or volunteering, but this has not been valued by govt. NFP's have been treated poorly over the past 10-12yrs.

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

providing more grants with target focus for more small organisations to access.
return to support for small local NFP's organisations and not dividing Australia to managed by just 1 to 3 orgs.

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

very few available, as if an NFP does not provide 100% to unemployed they cannot access grant support for capacity.
too hard to get DGR status, so cannot apply to foundations.

states change re NFP focus

there needs to be national NFP support for capacity building

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

large CSO's just build their own bigger empire, they do not support smaller orgs

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

yes, yes,
local trusted orgs with strong local linkages
not orgs building giant empires.

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

go back to calling for references, letters of support to back up
local MP's, mayors, members of parliament know what is happening in their local region as they know what deserves support

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

general small business advisory support - general means across all sectors
women in business small business mentoring support
have lots of evidence re above

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

yes

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

lack of understanding of NFP community orgs and how they operate.
challenges for profit orgs trying to take over the sector

6.2 What other solutions or changes could also be considered?

community round tables with local members to listen to the needs of community
accept online meetings with department more often to gain feedback on needs

6.3 What does success look like?

happy community, successful motivated, supported, empowered and return back to a can-do attitude.