

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

Yes - Community Radio Stations are committed to interact and support the local community within the Licence Area

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?

Provision of short audio files for broadcast

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?

By making greater use of existing bodies such as the Community Broadcasting Association of Australia (CBAA) and the Australian Media and Communications Authority (ACMA)

2.1 What would adequate and flexible funding look like?

Much more financial support for Community Radio stations to grow and maintain their local audience

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

Whilst money can sometimes be obtained for specific projects through grants from bodies such as Lotterywest or the Community Broadcasting Foundation, etc., there is little support thereafter for the ongoing continuation of the project.

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

The increasing costs of licences (broadcasting, copyright, etc.), insurance, maintenance are all impacting the ability to deliver services

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

The cost of items such as insurance and maintenance are rising faster than general inflation.

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?

Given how much Western Australia is divorced from the Federal Government in the Eastern States this would be better handled at a State level.

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

The paperwork involved in obtaining and acquitting a recent, small (\$6,000) Federal grant was disproportionately high. This is a distinct disincentive to applying for such grants.

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

If grants are provided to cover ongoing activities they should not be limited to a single year with a requirement to re-apply annually.

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?

Very small community organisations run entirely by volunteers, such as ourselves, have difficulty meeting tight deadlines especially in the current environment with a shortage of trades, etc. More leeway in reporting should be allowed.

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

Much improved advertising of what grants are available with longer deadlines for submission. Although this survey opened on 12 September we were not made aware of it until the start of November with a 7 November deadline. There is definitely a lack of communication between Federal Government and local organisations.

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

In the Community Radio sector there is one major grant giving body - the Community Broadcasting Foundation with considerable demands on its funds. Other grants are only available on an ad hoc basis.

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

Community Broadcasting is a somewhat competitive area with several Stations competing for limited sponsors. We don't see much opportunity for such support.

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

Community Radio Stations are governed by the Federal Government through the ACMA. Their requirements don't always correspond to State legislation leading to a conflict of interests.

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

Much greater involvement in State and local government in grant funding.

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

Community Radio was set up by the Federal Government about 30 years ago but with no provision for long-term funding to maintain a service in an area where technology is changing rapidly.

6.3 What does success look like?

Properly funded Community Stations actively involved in the local community within their Licence Area interacting with government at the Federal, State and local Council level.