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

Government led by CSOs on appropriate data collection, and outcomes reporting.

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?

Depends on the context.

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?

Seek out and listen to lived experience and reduce those burdens. This usually requires additional investments of time and money. CSO's are the conduit to those 'service users'.

2.1 What would adequate and flexible funding look like?

Grants that reflect the true cost of delivering quality services, including overheads, evaluation, communications and marketing and the cost of other staff who may not deliver programs directly but are required to keep the whole show on the road.

5-year funding commitments.

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

n/a

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

n/a

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?

n/a

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

n/a

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

5 years

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?

12 months.

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

Dedicated grant managers with whom CSOs can have regular and honest check-ins to enable nimble course corrections or new ideas.

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

Incentives for honest reflection rather than tick-a-box reporting.

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?

n/a

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

Have an open grant round twice a year for emerging services and programs run by NFPs and charities.You never know what will come our of the woodwork.

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

Private sector and philanthropic support is enamoured with social enterpises at the exclusion of genuine charities. The government could run a public sector version of some of those initaitives (like ▮▮▮▮▮▮▮ ▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮ and ▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮), for charities.

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

Competition for funding. Human egos.

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

I don't have time to complete this survey despite really wanting to engage. It's not even about prioritising my time, because even working 7 days a week and most nights, I still can't through everything that needs to get done. And no-one wants to fund me to hire someone to help, or pay me a salary. Funding is all about the direct service delivery.

6.3 What does success look like?

More people actually getting the assistance they need, when they need it without being sent on merry-go-arounds of inelegibility and jumping through hoops.

People working to support are not burning out.