



MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday 22nd November 2023

Mallee Family Care Advocates for Stronger Partnerships between Government and Community Service Organisations in Tackling Social Issues

Strong and genuine partnerships between government and the community sector are the key to addressing our most complex social problems, according to a [new submission](#) from place-based community service organisation Mallee Family Care.

Mallee Family Care (MFC) is a dedicated not-for-profit community service organisation serving northwest Victoria and far west New South Wales. The submission responds to the Australian Government's issues Paper, "A stronger, more diverse and independent community sector."

"MFC has long been advocating for a new and more sustainable approach to funding for the sector and one that fosters genuine partnership and ensure better service continuity. We were therefore delighted to provide a comprehensive response to this consultation outlining our view on how this can be achieved, says MFC CEO, Teresa Jayet.

"MFC currently administers over 70 programs, funded by both federal and state sources, which touch the lives of thousands across the Mallee region, spanning a wide array of critical areas, including family support, youth and children's services, disability support, mental health, housing, legal assistance and financial counselling.

"We have drawn on our broad experience across all these areas to suggest ways in which the government can work with community organisations to deliver better outcomes for communities.

Specific recommendations in the submission include:

- Developing clear, standardised consultation and co-design frameworks that outline the processes for engaging with the community sector, including guidelines for the involvement of diverse stakeholders and the methods of engagement, ensuring a consistent and transparent approach.
- Developing a dedicated funding stream for regional community service organisations to apply for funding to cover non-program overhead, administrative, and operational costs.
- Introducing a loading on grants for genuinely place-based community service organisations (CSOs) in regional and rural areas, to recognise the benefits and the difficulties in achieving economies of scale and to reflect their higher operational and travel costs.



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- Delivering one-off funding for genuinely place-based CSOs in regional and rural areas for digital transformation projects, to enable modern service delivery post-COVID-19 and create administrative and organisational efficiencies.

“MFC believes that these recommendations would support strong and effective partnership between government and community service organisations and enhance the government’s capacity to address complex social issues, and also empower CSOs to optimise service delivery and achieve the best possible outcomes for vulnerable children, individuals, and families who are facing adversity.

“MFC looks forward to working collaboratively with the Australian Government and other stakeholders to maximise the capacity of the community sector to address our most complex societal and individual challenges,” Ms Jayet said.

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