

Update from 22 September 2026 Quarterly CSAG Meeting: Update since 1 September 2026 (Release 4.0) CSSA member update.

FOR INFORMATION:

Closing the Gap Priority Reform 2: Building the community-controlled sector

- SNAICC, Life Without Barriers and Brotherhood of St Laurence showcased transition partnerships that are demonstrating success and shared information about resources and supports available to support transition of service delivery to Aboriginal Community-Controlled Organisations (ACCOs). Summary paper available via request to CSSA.
- The Grant Opportunity Guidelines for the Children and Family Support (CaFS) Program provide opportunities to prioritise and progress ACCO transitions. Linked to this, a grant opportunity to be released later in 2026 will provide for existing providers to partner with ACCOs for time-limited funding to support ACCO transitions.
- A dedicated session on supporting ACCOs is planned for **November 2026**.
- DSS met with SNAICC Transition Subcommittee on 6 August and aims to meet with the Safe and Supported Aboriginal Leadership Group in **October 2026**.

Outcomes Contracting

- Formally 'Relational Contracting' now to be known as 'Outcomes Contracting' (OC) following consultation via DSS Engage (63 submissions received).

- The development of OC quality indicators and OC Operating Manual will continue in close collaboration with the CSAG.
- DSS is entering into 'Test and Refine' stage with select providers until the end of 2026.

From Intervention to Insight: UnitingCare example of addressing cost of living pressures, learnings from a targeted intervention

- Overviewed UnitingCare's experience of intervention of \$11.7m investment in emergency relief and financial counselling services, recognising the growing cost-of-living pressures.
- Summary paper available via request to CSSA.

CSSA/UWA Program of Work Achieving Real Value for Money in Community Services: An Engagement Program for Mutual Benefit

- CSSA and the UWA Centre for Public Value sought CSAG input to progress a Program of Work (PoW) under the NFP Sector Development Blueprint, building on the 2025 'Real Costs, Real Impacts' research.
- From 2026, the PoW aims to build on wider reform momentum in understanding and practice of value for money service delivery through building shared costing and pricing language, instructing on sustainable costing and pricing and socialising these practices via CSAG.

ATO - Tax, Super and Concessions: Helping not-for-profits get it right

- Advised of new measure reforms including eligibility for a community organisation to be endorsed as a DGR and doubling philanthropic giving by 2030. More info at: ato.gov.au/nfpnews

ACTION REQUESTED FROM MEMBERS Follow-up for your consideration, with deadline for action

Children and Family Support (CaFS) Program Grant Opportunity Guidelines

CaFS Program Grant Opportunity Guidelines (GOGs) (Targeted Competitive) and Applications opened on GrantConnect on 18 September 2026 and close on **30 October 2026 at 9pm (AEST)**. All queries should be lodged with DSS by **23 October 2026**. Three proposed service streams will become two – national services; or early intervention and supports. A second grant opportunity will be available to ACCOs later in 2026. Queries on the GOGs can be directed to Funding Agreement Managers or via support@communitygrants.gov.au.

18 September release

Children and Family Support (CaFS) Program Feedback on Supporting Products

Provider Previews of existing and previous service footprints provided to service providers. DSS is keen to receive feedback through Funding Agreement Managers and families@dss.gov.au where the Provider Preview information is incorrect. DSS is keen for feedback on the limitations or inaccuracies of the [Community Needs Mapping Tool](#). Invites for Partnership Table meetings sent to service providers for place-based programs and services. DSS has posted [FAQs](#) to further assist the process.

Guide to Impact Placemat

DSS invited feedback on the Guide to Impact Placement contained alongside the CaFS Grant Opportunity Guidelines. Feedback accepted until **1 October 2026**.

1 October

Outcomes Contracting, Test and Refine phase

DSS is seeking Early Adopter interest from organisations currently funded under the Families and Children (FaC) Activity providers to simulate each part of the Outcomes Contracting operational elements. Focus in this stage will be on **organisational clarity, capability uplift and outcomes and quality measurement** priorities. Please contact CSAGSecretariat@dss.gov.au for interest noting a Probity process will be in place to protect commercial information in confidence. Please note: involvement in this process requires a significant time commitment to test and refine operational activities across the Outcomes Contracting lifecycle.

As soon as possible

CSSA / UWA Achieving Real Value for Money in Community Services: An Engagement Program for Mutual Benefit

CSSA presented to CSAG members on its Program of Work (PoW), an invitation to work with Government to build reform momentum to promote real value for money through a shared costing and pricing language, instructing on sustainable costing and pricing and socialising these practices. The PoW Proposal can be accessed [here](#). Further work to be progressed through CSAG Working Group.

Review for interest

FOR INFORMATION – Key CSAG Information across 2026

Agenda for 29 September (Informal) CSAG Working Group Meeting

- CSAG Forward Work Program 2027
- Strengthening social cohesion through Commonwealth grants consultation paper (Dept of Home Affairs)
- Outcomes Contracting – Quality Measures development, early findings from evidence review
- CaFS Program Implementation Update
- Attachments available from CSSA upon request.

Agenda for 27 October 2026 (Informal) CSAG Meeting

- Agenda to be confirmed

Agenda for 8 December 2026 (Formal) CSAG Meeting

- Agenda to be confirmed

CSAG 2027 Forward Workplan

- To be discussed at 29 September 2026 CSAG Working Group meeting
- CSAG will continue monthly informal meetings for the remainder of 2026 with the final CSAG Working Group meeting on **15 December 2026**. See **Annex A** below for updated CSAG Governance Diagram

KEY DATES – SUMMARY

22 September	29 September	1 October	27 October	30 October	8 December	15 December
CSAG Formal Quarterly Meeting	CSAG Informal Working Group Meeting	Feedback on Guide to Impact Placemat Due	CSAG Informal Working Group Meeting	CaFS Program Grant Opportunity Applications Close	Quarterly (Formal) CSAG Meeting	CSAG Informal Working Group Meeting

Member contributions and queries

For contributions or queries on CSAG items, please contact: Carmel Sefian, Director of Policy and Advocacy at carmel.sefian@cssa.org.au Catholic Social Services Australia. Further general information on CSAG can be found at: [Community Services Advisory Group | Department of Social Services](#).

Annex A: Governance Diagram for CSAG and CSAG Working Group

