DSS Community Sector Advisory Group (CSAG)

CSSA Member Update

Release 6.0 | 29 October 2026 | **For CSSA Members Only**

Catholic Social Services Australia

Update from 29 September and 27 October 2026 CSAG Meetings: Update since 22 September 2026 (Release 5.0) CSSA member update.

FOR INFORMATION:

27 October 2026 CSAG Working Group Meeting:

Transition readiness and cultural capability for ACCO partnershipSNAICC – the National Voice for our Children has asked CSAG members including peak organisations to share the CSAG Member Self-Assessment Survey link with their networks.

- This survey is adapted from the SNAICC Transition Readiness Assessment which supports community organisations that are transitioning programs to Aboriginal Community-Controlled Organisations (ACCOs) and/or working in partnership with ACCOs.
- Organisations perspectives are sought on the conditions, capabilities and partnerships needed to support successful transitions to ACCOs. Responses will help identify actions to strengthen transition readiness and cultural capability.
- If your organisation would like to participate, SNAICC has requested responses by **Tuesday, 10 November 2026**. The survey is anonymous and should take approximately **12 minutes** to complete.
- Findings will be reported at the 8 December CSAG Meeting.

Outcomes Contracting: Quality Measurements SimulationDSS confirms the design of the proposed Outcomes Contracting model and documents is now complete. CSAG members were guided through the Test and Refine Simulation stage of the Outcomes Contracting process which will be independently evaluated.

- The latest Outcomes Contracting Quality Measures Development framework will be circulated to CSAG members with feedback requested before the next CSAG Working Group meeting on **19 November 2026**. CSSA will circulate to members when available.

Community Sector Grants Engagement Framework

DSS will prepare its first Annual Report on the Framework by the end of 2026, including status of the**Community Sector Grants Engagement Framework – Progress Measurement Plan****CSAG Forward Workplan**

- DSS overviewed its strategic items for 2027 including: Implementation of key reforms, workforce sustainability, grants simplification and reducing administrative burden, ACCO transitions and provider diversity, simplified data and reporting, early intervention and service integration and funding sustainability.

National Redress Scheme Engagement

- The National Redress Scheme will cease on **1 June 2027**. DSS is keen to get information on the Scheme including application deadline and resources out to front-line services.
- Further information is available via the DSS Redress Scheme webpage or email DSS at: DSSRedressEngagement@dss.gov.au.

From previous 29 September 2026 CSAG Working Group Meeting:

Strengthening social cohesion via Commonwealth grants – Office of Social Cohesion, Department of Home Affairs

- The Department of Home Affairs provided an overview of draft social cohesion clauses being considered for inclusion in Commonwealth grant agreements. The draft clauses aim to establish consistent behavioural expectations for grant recipients and provide mechanisms to address conduct that may undermine social cohesion.
- For a copy of the draft clauses, please contact carmel.sefian@cssa.org.au.

Other:

Update on the Fair Work Commission's Gender Undervaluation Review

- The CSAG Secretariat provided an update on the recent decisions by the Fair Work Commission under the Gender Undervaluation Review and the associated Australian Government funding announcement resulting in wage and classification changes under the SCHADS and HPSS Awards, which will take effect progressively.
- Changes commence from 1 October 2026 for HPSS, 1 December 2026 for Schedule E home care disability workers, and 1 October 2027 for the broader SCHADS reforms. The Commonwealth has announced $630 million to support Commonwealth-funded organisations affected by changes to both awards.
- The Department will contact affected organisations with further information on funding amounts, timing and any required changes to grant agreements. Further updates will also be provided to CSAG. See Media Release here.

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 confirm CSAG support 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.

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

Outcomes Contracting, Test and Refine phase: Quality Measurement Development Project DSS is working with 'Early Adopter' 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. DSS will report on the early Quality Measurements Simulation Findings at the November CSAG Working Group meeting. Participating CSSA member organisations are invited to provide feedback through CSSA.	**Simulation – early findings by November CSAG Meeting** **Simulation Project - Ongoing through to December 2026**
Transition readiness and cultural capability for ACCO partnership SNAICC is seeking responses to its CSAG Member Self-Assessment Survey including from member network organisations.	**By 10 November 2026**
CSSA/UWA Achieving Real Value for Money in Community Services: Engagement Program for Mutual Benefit CSSA presented to CSAG members on its Program of Work (PoW) in September 2026. The PoW is 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 practices. Further work to be progressed through CSAG Working Group.	**For interest, member quality assurance participation to be requested. Project to commence from early 2027**

FOR INFORMATION – Key CSAG Information across 2026

Agenda for 19 November 2026 (Informal) CSAG Working Group Meeting

- Agenda to be confirmed.

Agenda for 8 December 2026 Quarterly CSAG Meeting

- Agenda to be confirmed.

Agenda for 15 December 2026 (Informal) CSAG Working Group Meeting

- Agenda to be confirmed.

KEY DATES – SUMMARY

30 October	Early November	10 November	19 November	8 December	15 December
CaFS Program Grant Opportunity Applications Close	CSAG member feedback on Outcomes Contracting Quality Measurement Development	SNAICC ACCO Transition Survey responses due	CSAG Informal Working Group Meeting	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.