

**STRONGER
ACCOS,
STRONGER
FAMILIES
FINAL REPORT**



SNAICC
National Voice for our Children

STRONGER ACCOS, STRONGER FAMILIES FINAL REPORT

FINDINGS

The survey and consultation forums aimed to answer four questions across four domains of Commonwealth funding to ACCOs for children and family services listed below. Table 5 presents a summary of the key findings under each of the domains.

- **Strengths:** What are the strengths of ACCOs in delivering children and family services and why it is important to increase funding to ACCOs?
- **Needs:** What are the unmet needs of ACCOs for accessing funding and delivering children and family services?
- **Barriers:** What are the barriers that ACCOs face to accessing Commonwealth funding for and delivering children and family services?
- **Opportunities:** What are the opportunities for the Commonwealth Government to meet the needs of ACCOs and address the barriers?

Table 5: Findings summary table

STRENGTHS

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|--|--|
| <p>A. ACCOs are inextricably connected to the communities they serve</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ACCOs know their communities, and this results in more targeted and responsive service delivery - ACCOs are accountable to their communities, and this drives high quality service delivery |
| <p>B. ACCOs use a holistic model of care to deliver integrated and culturally safe services</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ACCOs are culturally safe and have existing relationships, and this results in better access to services for families - ACCOs use models of care that result in better health and wellbeing outcomes by being 'one stop shops' for families |



BARRIERS

- | | |
|--|--|
| C. Lack of community control in program design and funding allocation processes | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Current top-down approaches to funding do not support self-determination- The funding priorities being set by government do not always line up with community needs or aspirations- Programs and services designed by government without community-led decision-making processes do not work for ACCOs or communities- Criteria for assessing the merit of grant opportunities do not appropriately weight the cultural strengths of ACCOs and advantage larger non-Indigenous NGOs |
| D. Funding processes | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Funding processes are time consuming for already under resourced organisations- Funding processes and criteria for assessing the merit of grant opportunities advantage larger non-Indigenous NGOs- Processes need to be simplified and navigation must be improved to reduce the burden of identifying and applying for funding |
| E. Funding doesn't match the model of care | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Program guidelines do not match ACCOs' model of holistic and integrated care- Funding is siloed and deficits based- Funding models do not account for the cultural care that ACCOs need to be able to provide to communities- Funding is insufficient to cover the true costs of service delivery |
| F. Poor partnerships | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Partnerships were not a preferred mode of funding services for ACCOs- Non-Indigenous organisations benefit from both receiving funding and then relying on ACCOs to facilitate programs- ACCOs feel taken advantage of in poor partnerships- The capabilities of ACCOs are not respected in current partnership models |
| G. Reporting burdens | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Reporting requirements are time consuming and take time away from service delivery |

NEEDS

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|---|--|
| H. Resources for core operational functions and infrastructure | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- ACCOs need core operational funding and infrastructure to develop and grow |
| I. Data, evaluation, and research | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- ACCOs need access to data, evaluation and research that is community led |
| J. Stability in funding agreements | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Long term funding is needed for growth, development, and workforce stability |

OPPORTUNITIES

- | | |
|---|---|
| K. Improving navigation and support resources | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Implementing a centralised ACCO specific grant portal |
| L. Building government capacity to support ACCOs and undertake funding reform including: | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Understanding how ACCOs deliver services and the role ACCOs play in community- Using community-led decision-making processes- Utilising existing and strengthening accountability mechanisms to ACCOs and communities- Addressing racism and increasing cultural appropriateness in procurement processes- Overcoming siloed approaches to funding and supporting integrated service delivery |

