



Default Question Block

Civil Voices: Researching not-for-profit advocacy in Australia

This survey seeks to better understand the challenges and opportunities facing not-for-profit organisations in Australia that contribute to advocacy and public policy debate.

The findings of this research, being carried out by academics at the University of Melbourne, will be used by Pro Bono Australia in collaboration with the Human Rights Law Centre to stimulate public discussion on these issues, and will also be published in academic journals.

We are planning to publish the findings in a report by the end of October.

By giving just 10-15 minutes of your time you can become part of a wider conversation that is of vital importance to the social sector.

The survey can be saved and returned to if need be, your identity will remain anonymous and your response to these questions will be de-identified from any identifying features that you choose to supply.

Unless otherwise stated, all questions relate to the federal government when government is mentioned.

We thank you for your time and for sharing your insights on this important topic.

PART A: YOUR ORGANISATION

**What would you describe as the main field in which your organisation is working?
(Multiple choices allowed)**

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation and environment | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth services/issues |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Law, justice and human rights | <input type="checkbox"/> Family services/issues |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Social justice | <input type="checkbox"/> Children's services/issues |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Social welfare | <input type="checkbox"/> LGBTIQ services/issues |

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aged services/issues | <input type="checkbox"/> Student welfare/education |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health | <input type="checkbox"/> Disability services/issues |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mental health | <input type="checkbox"/> Arts and culture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Immigration and refugees | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion and religious groups |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Overseas aid and development | <input type="checkbox"/> Sport and recreation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Indigenous services/issues | <input type="checkbox"/> Science and technology |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Women's services/issues | <input type="checkbox"/> Men's services/issues |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other | |
| <input type="text"/> | |

What kinds of activities does your organisation engage in? (Answer more than one if appropriate)

- Service provision
- Research
- Advocacy
- Lobbying
- Education / public awareness
- Other

Are you a state or national organisation?

State

National

Both

What methods does your organisation use to get your message heard? (Answer all please)

	Never	Sometimes	About half the time	Most of the time	Always
Communication with members (ie hardcopy newsletter)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Social media	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Organise public meetings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Communication with members (ie online - website, blog)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Organise public protests	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Participate in delegations to minister, shadow ministers etc.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Media releases	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Publication of research / reports / data	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Never	Sometimes	About half the time	Most of the time	Always
Submissions to government inquiries	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Letters to the editor	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Does your organisation use social media to get your message heard?

- Yes
- No

What effects do you find from using social media for messaging? (Answer all please)

	Always	Most of the time	About half the time	Sometimes	Never
Leads to engagement with our key stakeholders	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Leads to mainstream media attention (story in print, radio, TV)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Leads to new members	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Always	Most of the time	About half the time	Sometimes	Never
Negative feedback ie trolling	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other effects <input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Leads to increased followers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Message spreads widely	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gets attention from politicians	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

What social media platform do you most use?

- Twitter
- Facebook
- LinkedIn
- Instagram
- Snapchat

How do you measure social media's effectiveness for your organisation?

Do you use social media (any form) for other online activities? (List as many as apply)

Fundraising (crowd sourcing donations)

Support through online petitions

Communication with (existing) members

Other

Finding new supporters

Does your organisation ever partner with third-party campaigning organisations like GetUp, trade unions, lobby groups or peak organisations?

Yes

No

Can you tell us which organisation and describe the experience? Do you think it made you more or less effective as advocates for the issues of concern to your organisation?

**Who would you describe as your main audience for your key policy messages?
(Answer as many as apply)**

	Always	Most of the time	About half the time	Sometimes	Never
State shadow ministers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Federal government ministers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bureaucrats	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other <input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Donors (philanthropists etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
State government ministers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Federal shadow ministers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mainstream media	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other politicians	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Thinking about current federal government policy with which your organisation is concerned, in general, are your organisation's key messages:

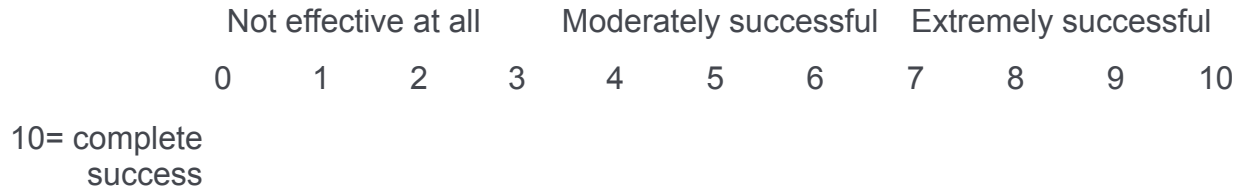
	Always	Most of the time	About half the time	Sometimes	Never
Supportive of government policy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Critical of government policy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Not related to government policy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Thinking about the relevant policies of the previous federal Labor government (ie before the 2013 election) in general, were your organisation's key messages:

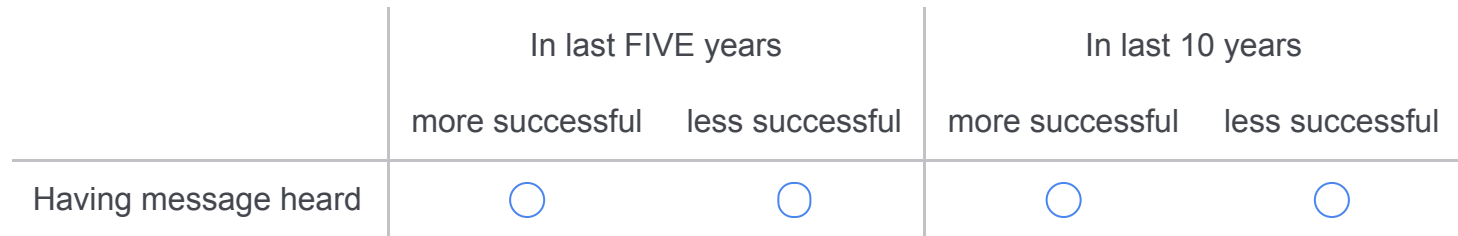
	Always	Most of the time	About half the time	Sometimes	Never
Supportive of government policy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Critical of government policy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Not related to government policy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Thinking about the last 12 months how successful do you feel that your organisation has been in having your key messages heard by federal government? (Please move

the slider accordingly)



Over past years do you feel that your organisation has become more or less successful in having your messages heard than at present?



How can you tell?

What do you perceive to be the main barriers to getting your organisation's message heard? (Please answer all)

	Always	Most of the time	About half the time	Sometimes	Never
Mainstream media not interested	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Community not interested	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Government not interested	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lack of networks with decision-makers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Opposition from vested interests	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Internal (board/management) pressure to do things quietly	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Too much noise – ie competition for attention from similar organisations	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Your funding agreement restricts ability to comment on government policy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lack of analytical resources	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

	Always	Most of the time	About half the time	Sometimes	Never
Lack of media liaison resources	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

PART B: YOUR ORGANISATION AND CONSULTATION

Have you ever been involved in a government consultation process?

Yes	No	Not applicable
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

What form did this consultation take? (Choose as many as apply)

- Roundtable meeting
- Focus group
- Written submission
- Appearance at a government inquiry/hearing
- Other

At what stage do you think you were asked to participate in consultations with government?

- Early stage (before policies made)
- Middle stage (policies made but details to be decided)
- Late Stage (at implementation stage for final policy decisions)

What resources did your organisation need to participate effectively in this process (eg preparation/research, liaison with members, employing consultant, travel funds etc.)? Please state whether the example relates to a state or federal government process.

Was government assistance provided in order to meet the costs of being involved in their consultation process?

- Yes, costs fully met
- Partially
- No

How did your participation in this process come about? (Mark any that apply)

	Which government?	
	state	federal
Invitation from government	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Own initiative	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Responded to call for submission	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other <input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

How would you describe your experience of consultation with the government over the last FIVE years? (Please answer all)

	0	20	40	60	80	100
Not meaningful (0) to Highly meaningful (100)						
Expensive (0) No cost (100)						
No policy shift (0) to Policy shifts (100)						
Harmed relationship with government (0) to Improved relationship (100)						

Not enthusiastic
about future consults
(0) to very
enthusiastic (100)

Were any concerns that your organisation raised during this process reflected in current government policy?

Yes

N/A

No

If yes, in what ways?

PART C: FUNDING

Does your organisation currently receive any government funding for core operations or individual projects?

Yes, fully funded for core operations (state)

Yes partially funded for core operations (federal)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, partially funded for core operations (state) | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, fully funded for core operations (federal) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, specific project funding (state) | <input type="checkbox"/> No (federal) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> No (state) | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, specific project funding (federal) |

If applicable, does your funding agreement restrict your organisation’s capacity to make public comment on government policy?

Yes

No

What are these restrictions?

Has your organisation had its government funding cut/reduced or increased in the past 10 years?

	Funding cuts		Funding gains		Don't Know
	Yes	No	Yes	No	
Federal	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

	Funding cuts		Funding gains		Don't Know
	Yes	No	Yes	No	
State	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

When did you lose your funding and what reasons were you given for the cessation of your funding? Were other reasons given?

When did you gain this funding and did it come with conditions on your public communications?

Does your organisation have Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status?

- Yes
 No

Is having DGR status essential to your organisation's financial well-being?

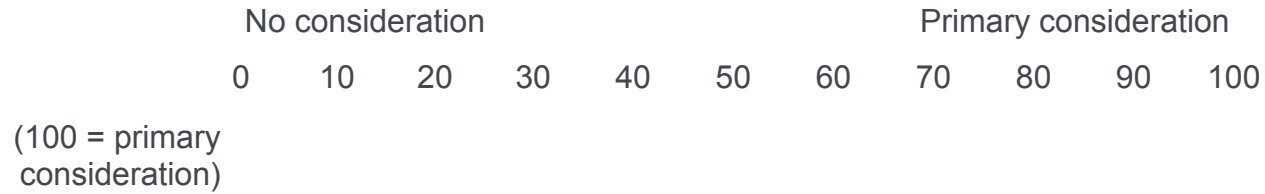
- Yes
 No

Are you concerned that the way in which your organisation engages in policy debate/advocacy might affect your DGR status?

- Yes
 No

Please describe the activities that your organisation could undertake that you believe might negatively affect your DGR status.

Does anxiety about maintaining your organisation's DGR status affect decisions about whether to engage in public debate/advocacy?

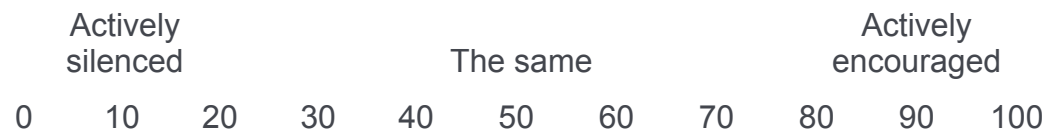


Block 1

Why/why not?

PART D: GOVERNMENT ATTITUDE TO POLICY DEBATE

In your area of interest, what do you think is the current federal government's attitude to debate? (Slide to where you see fit: 0= silence, 100 = encouraged)



Thinking about your answer above, has this attitude changed with different governments?

Please use sliding scale to show. If debate has improved please place the slider above 50, if it has decreased please place slider below 50. (Leave the slider on 50 if it is the same)



Please indicate your response to each of the following statements:

Current Australian political culture encourages public debate

Economic power and strong vested interests are major drivers of government policy

NGOs are pressured to amend public statements to be in line with government policy

The Australian media fosters a tolerant political culture

Individuals/organisations that dissent from current government policy are valued as part of a robust democracy

Dissenting organisations and individuals risk having their funding cut

Dissenting organisations risk losing their DGR status

The Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission is of great benefit to the sector

Australian debate is politically polarised between the left and right ideological spectrum

Please respond to this statement: Philanthropists would rather fund service delivery over advocacy activities by NGOs.

Strongly agree

Somewhat agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Somewhat disagree

Strongly disagree

In your opinion, how well do you think democratic principles are upheld in Australia?

Strongly upheld

Somewhat upheld

Somewhat disregarded

Strongly disregarded

Do you think that Australian institutions are taking appropriate action to guarantee civic space in Australia?

Taking strong action

Taking action

Neutral

Probably not

Definitely not

In general, do you feel that the people in government are too often interested in looking after themselves, or do you feel that they can be trusted to do the right thing nearly all the time?

- Usually look after themselves
- Sometimes look after themselves
- Sometimes can be trusted to do the right thing
- Usually can be trusted to do the right thing

Would you say the government is run by a few big interests looking out for themselves, or that it is run for the benefit of all the people?

- Entirely run for the big interests
- Mostly run for the big interests

- About half and half
- Mostly run for the benefit of all
- Entirely run for the benefit of all

Do you work with organisations in other countries that are similar to yours? (If yes, please name them)

- Yes
- No

Are there factors that make the international environment an easier one than Australia for communicating their key messages.

PART E: ABOUT YOU

Finally some questions about you. This information will remain confidential and will not be used to identify you in any way.

What position do you hold in the organisation?

- CEO
- Senior management reporting to CEO
- Board member
- Other

How large is your organisation? (Number of employees)

- 1-5 employees
- 5-20
- 20-50
- 50 plus

How do you identify your gender?**What is your age group?**

Generally speaking, which political party do you feel closest to?

How do you rate your support (in the House of Reps) for the party identified in the above question?

- Very strong - I never change my vote
- Moderately strong - I rarely change my vote
- Not very strong - I change my vote
- I have no party that I support

What is the name of your organisation? (Optional and confidential)

Any other comments? Anything else you'd like to say about Civil Voices and not-for-profit advocacy in Australia?

Thank you for taking the time to fill out this questionnaire. If you wish to receive a copy of the final report when it is completed please leave your email address here. (All responses will remain confidential)

Your email address. (optional)

Powered by Qualtrics