



# National Women's Health Advisory Council Meeting Communiqué

On 20 February 2023, the Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care, the Hon Ged Kearney MP chaired the inaugural meeting of the National Women's Health Advisory Council (Council) in Melbourne. The meeting was attended by Members and Special Advisers representing peak stakeholder organisations, academia, consumer groups, and medical and professional bodies. Officers from the Department of Health and Aged Care and the National Health and Medical Research Council also attended.

The Council has been established to provide strategic advice and recommendations on how to improve the nation's health system to provide better, more targeted and effective healthcare for Australian women and girls, to ensure it is culturally safe and appropriate.

The Council acknowledges the work already underway across Australia through state, local and community led organisations to ensure improvements in the health system are realised for women and girls.

At the meeting:

1. Terms of Reference for the Council were endorsed. These are available online at the National Women's Health and Advisory Council page at [www.health.gov.au](http://www.health.gov.au).
2. The Council agreed the National Women's Health Strategy 2020-2030 and the key principles identified within the Strategy will ground the Council's work.
3. The Council identified key areas where it will focus and deliver practical, tangible and achievable advice on:
  - research
  - service choice
  - access
  - empowerment
  - safety
4. The Council will take an equity lens and ensure it identifies actions to address the challenges priority populations face.
5. The Council agreed to deliver annual reports to Government including clear recommendations to improve health outcomes for Australian women and girls.
6. The Council discussed stakeholder engagement and noted that the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RANZCOG) will develop a Stakeholder Engagement and Communication Plan with input from the Council.
7. The Council agreed to develop a consumer engagement mechanism to allow consumers and experts to contribute their experiences and expertise to the Council, acknowledging there are many issues to consider in relation to women's health.
8. Potential key performance indicators and evaluation mechanisms were discussed. These will be incorporated into a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework, led by RANZCOG.



9. Assistant Minister Kearney noted the Council has a clear agenda ahead of it and appreciates that every woman and girl has their own unique experience and journey through the health system.
10. The Council will meet up to six times per year, with the next meeting to be held in early April 2023.