



National Women's Health Advisory Council Meeting Communiqué

On 5 April 2023, the Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care, the Hon Ged Kearney MP chaired the second 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.

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.

At the meeting:

- The Council acknowledged the addition of a new Member, Dr Fei Sim, President, Pharmaceutical Society of Australia and a new Special Adviser, Ms Sandy Gillies, Chief Executive officer, Western Queensland Primary Health Network.
- The Council received a presentation providing an overview of Australia's health system, members discussed what levers could be used to improve outcomes for women and girls and discussed how important the structure and membership of advisory bodies is to influence long term systemic reform. An update was also provided on the role of the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) and the work of the TGA's Women's Health Products Working Group. The National Health and Medical Research Council provided an update on relevant work being undertaken to consider gaps and bias in research.
- The Council discussed the establishment of subcommittees to prepare specific advice and evidence in relation to key focus areas:
 1. Safety
 2. Research
 3. Access, care and outcomes
 4. Empowerment

Gender equity and equity for all women will be considered across the key focus areas. Key research questions for each subcommittee were agreed.

- The Council continued to recognise and appreciate the unique challenges and experiences women and girls are facing in the health system and the importance of the stakeholder engagement plan, to be presented at the next meeting.
- The Council discussed a questionnaire to seek consumer feedback from women and girls' about their experiences in the health system. This will form part of the broader stakeholder engagement plan.

The next Council meeting will be held in June 2023.