



National Women's Health Advisory Council Meeting Communiqué

On 8 June 2023, the Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care, the Hon Ged Kearney MP chaired the third meeting of the National Women's Health Advisory Council (Council), held virtually. 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.

At the meeting:

1. Presentations were provided on the unique health needs faced by women and girls living in rural and regional areas and First Nations women. The Council discussed the barriers and enablers, challenges and opportunities, and common experiences of women in these communities.
2. The Council's subcommittee leads each provided an update on their subcommittee work and their next steps in addressing their subcommittee focus area (safety; research; access, care and outcomes; and empowerment). The Access, Care and Outcomes subcommittee welcomed Dr Fei Sim as co-chair of the group.
3. The Council noted the recommendations from the Senate inquiry into universal access to reproductive healthcare and its report *"Ending the postcode lottery: Addressing barriers to sexual, maternity and reproductive healthcare in Australia"* and discussed how these recommendations link to the work of the subcommittees.
4. The Council received an update on the survey that is being developed to allow people with lived experience and experts to contribute their experiences and expertise to the Council. Once developed, further information will be available on the Council's webpage at www.health.gov.au/committees-and-groups/national-womens-health-advisory-council
5. The Council heard about the UK Women's Health Strategy and its key focus areas, the need for evidence and ensuring that women's voices are embedded in our policy work.

The next Council meeting will be held in September 2023.