



National Women's Health Advisory Council Meeting Communiqué

On 9 October 2023, the Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care, the Hon. Ged Kearney MP chaired the fourth meeting of the National Women's Health Advisory Council (Council). Members and Special Advisers attended the meeting 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 improved health outcomes.

At the meeting:

1. The Council welcomed Professor Danielle Mazza as a Member. Two Special Advisers were welcomed: Ms Linda Kensington as Chief Executive Officer of CRANaplus, and Dr Jane Lloyd as interim representative of ANROWS (Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety). Ms Prue Torrance was welcomed as the new National Health and Medical Research Council representative.
2. Several Council Members and Special Advisers gave presentations on the unique health needs faced by women and girls from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, women in the LGBTIQ+ community, and women at risk of violence. The Council discussed the common experiences, barriers and enablers to addressing the bias these population groups face in addition to their gender.
3. The Council received an update on the #EndGenderBias survey which closes 13 October 2023. The survey aims to hear women's lived experiences of gender bias in the health system and seek information from experts.
4. The Council's subcommittee leads provided an update on their work and the next steps in addressing their respective focus areas (safety; research; access, care and outcomes; and empowerment) and noted the importance of taking an intersectional approach.
5. The Council provided feedback on a conceptual approach to a draft Monitoring and Reporting Framework (Framework) to measure progress on implementation of the National Women's Health Strategy 2020–2030. Stakeholder consultation on the draft Framework will be undertaken from late 2023 to early 2024.
6. The Council agreed to review the draft workplan for 2023 out of session.

The next Council meeting will be held in November 2023.